

Logic-Based Reading Comprehension

1. The school board has responded to the new school lunch guidelines by replacing fries with fruit in a standard meal option that used to consist of a ham burger, fries, and milk. However, the guidelines specifically require that vegetables, not fruits, be included in every meal.

The information above most strongly supports which of the following conclusions?

- (A) Fruit provides just as much health value to students as vegetables.
- (B) Students are more likely to eat fruit than vegetables.
- (C) The school board is not following the new school guidelines.
- (D) The school board is responsible for the health of the student population.
- (E) The new school lunch guidelines are unnecessarily strict.

2. While many people think of the lottery as a harmless way to have fun and possibly win some money, buying lottery tickets is a form of gambling. Therefore, public officials shouldn't buy lottery tickets.

Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the conclusion?

- (A) Individuals who play the lottery are less likely to win a big payout than they are to be killed in a car crash.
- (B) Some public officials are guilty of much more serious offenses than gambling.
- (C) Public officials shouldn't gamble.
- (D) Many public officials are easily tempted to violate rules governing their positions.
- (E) Most lottery winners are not made as happy by their winnings as they expected.

3. Some say that Saddlebrook College provides the best value in our state. Yet, students at our state's Tunbridge College pay less, enjoy newer buildings and smaller class sizes, and earn larger incomes after graduation.

The information above, if true, most strongly supports which of the following judgments?

- (A) Tunbridge College provides the best value in our state.
- (B) Tunbridge College has more stringent entrance requirements than Saddlebrook College, and thus attracts students of a higher caliber.
- (C) It is not true that Saddlebrook College provides the best value in our state.
- (D) Student income after graduation is a valid means of judging the value of a college education.
- (E) Students at Tunbridge College report higher rates of satisfaction than students at Saddlebrook College.

4. Studies have long shown that people who drive red cars receive more speeding tickets from the police than do those who drive cars of other colors. Researchers have thus concluded that the color of a car influences its driver's behavior.

The argument depends upon which one of the following assumptions?

- (A) Drivers of black cars receive the second-most speeding tickets.
- (B) Red cars do not attract more attention from the police than do cars of other colors.

- (C) Police officers do not drive red cars.
- (D) Red cars do not receive any more parking tickets, on average, than do cars of other colors.
- (E) Drivers of red cars who are ticketed for speeding are able to appeal their tickets more often than drivers of other color cars.

5. The headmaster at Leawood Day School noticed that scores on math tests were lower this year than in previous years. This year, all students took math courses during the first period of the school day; in years past, they had taken math during the final period of the day. Reasoning that the students perform better on math tests when they are fully awake, the headmaster concluded that test scores would be higher if math classes were moved to the end of the day.

The headmaster's reasoning depends upon which of the following assumptions?

- (A) It would be possible to reconfigure the school's schedule to accommodate having math classes in the afternoon.
- (B) Several schools similar to Leawood Day School hold math classes in the afternoon.
- (C) The quality of the teaching has little bearing on test scores.
- (D) This year the math department started using new, unfamiliar curricular materials.
- (E) Students are more likely to be fully awake during the final period of the day than they are during the first period of the day.

6. When financial services companies undertake layoffs, the most valuable employees, whom the companies want to retain, often leave the company voluntarily for new jobs not long after the layoffs. ITEL Financial Services, however, has not lost any of its most valuable employees despite multiple layoffs in the past decade. ITEL credits its success in keeping valuable employees to its high tolerance for risk when employees make investment decisions.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports ITEL's reasoning as to why the company retains its most valuable employees?

- (A) People in the financial services industry are often motivated to change jobs by a significant salary increase.
- (B) The way in which layoffs are handled can have a significant upward or downward impact on the morale and company loyalty of the employees who remain.
- (C) Layoffs often occur during industry downturns, and it is generally much more difficult to find a new job when the industry is struggling.
- (D) It is difficult to develop an objective method or definition for determining who should be considered a very valuable employee.
- (E) A risk-intolerant environment impedes the entrepreneurial drive that financial services industry employees feel is a requirement to be successful.

7. Exterminator: Using poisoned food is the most effective tactic for combating a mouse infestation. The mouse will carry the food back to the nest, causing all of the mice to die, while a trap will kill only the one mouse that falls into it. If all signs of the mice disappear for three consecutive weeks after poisoned food is used, the homeowner can be sure that the poison was successful in eradicating the mice.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously calls into question the exterminator's claim that the absence of signs for three weeks means the mice have been eradicated by the poison?

- (A) Because mice hide whenever they sense humans, it is very difficult to see or hear mice even when there is an active infestation.

- (B) It is more humane to use “live-catch” traps that allow homeowners to release the still-living mice outside.
- (C) In the spring, many mice that nest in houses begin foraging for food outside and do not return to the comfort of the house until the fall or winter.
- (D) There are several different kinds of poison that could be used, some of which are more effective than others.
- (E) It sometimes takes longer than three weeks for all of the mice to ingest and die from the poison.

8. Ammonium triiodide is a highly explosive chemical that is easy to make from only two ingredients, ammonia and concentrated iodine. However, no terrorists are known to have ever used ammonium triiodide in an attack.

Which of the following, if true, is the most likely explanation for the discrepancy described above?

- (A) Ammonia can be bought in a grocery store, but concentrated iodine must be obtained from somewhat more restricted sources, such as chemical supply houses.
- (B) Ammonium triiodide is only one of several powerful explosives that can be made from ammonia. (C) Many terrorists have been more focused on acquiring weapons of mass destruction, such as nuclear or biological weapons, than on developing conventional chemical explosives.
- (D) Airport security devices are typically calibrated to detect nitrogen compounds, such as ammonia and ammonium compounds.
- (E) Although generally stable when wet, ammonium triiodide is unstable when dry and explodes at the slightest disturbance.

9. The recent decline in the employment rate was spurred by predictions of slow economic growth in the coming year. However, those predictions would not have affected the employment rate if it had not been for the lack of capital reserves of major industries. So if major industries increase their capital reserves, the employment rate will not decline in the future.

Which of the following, if true, casts the most doubt on the validity of the argument above?

- (A) Major industry foresaw the drop in employment.
- (B) Some major industries had appreciable capital reserves.
- (C) An increase in labor costs could adversely affect the employment rate.
- (D) The government could pass legislation mandating that major industries set aside a fixed amount as capital reserves every year.
- (E) The drop in the employment rate was more severe this year than last.

10. New methods of math education in this country do a disservice to our children. In the lower grades, math instruction should focus on the basic skills that students will need in higher grades to develop the ability to solve complex problems. Learning basic math skills is like learning the scales and chords that one will later use to master complicated concertos and symphonies. Increasingly, math educators in this country seem to have it backward, emphasizing in higher grades the same narrow, skills-based approach that students learned in lower grades rather than the analytical tools they will need to solve complex math problems.

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the conclusion drawn above?

- (A) While music is common in elementary school curricula, it is rarely taught in high school.
- (B) On international tests of complex math skills, high-school students in this country performed no worse than did their counterparts from countries where problem solving is emphasized in higher grades.
- (C) When presented with a math problem to solve, students in higher grades are more likely to arrive at

different answers than students in lower grades.

(D) Older students tend to receive higher grades in math than younger students do.

(E) Universities in this country report a steady increase in the percentage of first-year students who qualify to take courses such as engineering that require advanced math.

11. The fight against the drug trade in Country X should focus for the time being on tightening the country's borders and targeting its major smugglers. Wiping out poppy fields in rural areas means even greater hardship for an economically depressed farming population. Rather, the United Nations and the government of Country X must carefully rebuild agricultural infrastructure in areas where the economy depends on these poppy fields.

What purpose do the two boldface sentences serve in the passage?

(A) The first is the conclusion drawn by the speaker; the second is the alternative to that conclusion.

(B) The first is a short-term solution to a problem; the second is a long-term solution to the same problem.

(C) The first presents a problem; the second poses an ideal solution to the problem.

(D) The first presents a popular solution to a problem; the second presents a solution preferred by the author.

(E) The first presents an argument; the second presents evidence to support the argument.

12. In the 18th and 19th centuries, it was believed in many coastal American cities that the waterfront was an undesirable location for residential buildings. As a result, much of the waterfront in these cities was never developed aesthetically and instead was left to industry and commerce. Today, however, waterfront properties are generally seen as prestigious, as evidenced by the large sums paid for homes along the beach front. A developer who wishes to make a large profit would be wise to buy urban waterfront lots and erect residential buildings on them.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the claim made about urban waterfront properties?

(A) People today have more money, relatively speaking, to spend on real estate than they did in previous centuries.

(B) Homeowners will be willing to spend large sums on residential properties in traditionally industrial or commercial districts.

(C) Many urban waterfront lots are available for purchase.

(D) Many coastal American cities are encouraging developers to rehabilitate the waterfront through tax incentives.

(E) Properties in interior residential districts in coastal American cities are significantly more expensive than those along the waterfront.

13. Psychiatric research has shown that receiving high-quality outpatient care, rather than being confined to an institution, produces the best quality of life for people who are mentally ill. Responding to this research, Congress in 1963 passed a law that released 95% of the mentally ill patients who had been confined to institutions. In 1983, however, researchers discovered that, on average, mentally ill people in America were faring worse than ever.

Which of the following, if true, best resolves the paradox in the above passage?

(A) More people were diagnosed with psychiatric disorders in 1983 than in 1963.

(B) In 1983, men who had been released from mental institutions fared worse than their female counterparts.

- (C) A num ber of psychiatric m edications w ere discovered betw een 1963 and 1983,including som e early antidepressants.
- (D) C ongress never supplied the funding that w ould have been necessary to provide high-quality outpatient care to the new ly-released patients.
- (E) M ost of the released patients w ho w ere doing badly in 1983 suffered from one of three m ental illnesses.

14.R ecently,som e critics of the U S governm ent have pointed out that this country is the only advanced industrialized nation w ithout a national vaccine laboratory and suggested that this lack m akes the A m erican public m ore vulnerable than other developed nations to infectious diseases,such as avian flu.A governm ent official said these critics w ere disloyal and thus w rong about the public's vulnerability.To support his claim ,the official cited the generally long life span and low infant m ortality of U S citizens,relative to all U N m em ber nations.

M entioning the high quality of A m erican hospitals,he added that all of the Europeans that he knew preferred to undergo m ajor m edical treatm ents in the U nited States rather than in the socialized m edical system s in place in their hom e countries.

A ll of the follow ing are w eaknesses or potential w eaknesses in the official's argum ent EX C EPT:

- (A) The high quality of hospitals in the U nited States is not a factor affecting the public's vulnerability to infectious disease.
- (B) W hether or not the critics are disloyal has no bearing on w hether or not they are w rong.
- (C) The Europeans that the official cited are a dem ographically narrow sam ple,overw helm ingly com posed of w ealthy m ales over the age of fifty.
- (D) The average life span of U S citizens is determ ined not only by deaths due to infectious diseases but also by deaths due to all other causes.
- (E) C om paring the U nited States to all U N m em ber nations does not address the concern that the U S is behind other advanced industrialized nations in a particular w ay.

15.In response to the increasing cost of producing energy through traditional m eans,such as com bustion,m any utility com panies have begun investing in renew able energy sources,chiefly w ind and solar pow er,hoping som eday to rely on them com pletely and thus low er energy costs.The utility com panies claim that although these sources require significant initial capital investm ent,they w ill provide stable energy supplies at low cost.A s a result, these sources w ill be less risky for the utilities than nonrenew able sources,such as gas,oil,and coal,w hose prices can fluctuate dram atically according to availability.

The claim of the utility com panies presupposes w hich of the follow ing?

- (A) The public w ill em brace the developm ent of w ind and solar pow er.
- (B) N o new deposits of gas,oil,and coal w ill be discovered in the near future.
- (C) W eather patterns are consistent and predictable.
- (D) The necessary technology for conversion to w ind and solar pow er is not m ore expensive than the technology needed to create energy through com bustion.
- (E) O btaining energy from nonrenew able sources,such as gas,oil and coal,cannot be m ade less risky.

16.Inorganic pesticides rem ain active on the surfaces of fruits and vegetables for several days after spraying,w hile organic pesticides dissipate w ithin a few hours after application,leaving the surface of the sprayed produce free of pesticide residue.Therefore,w hen purchasing from a farm that uses inorganic pesticides,one m ust be careful to w ash the produce thoroughly before eating it to prevent the ingestion of toxins.B ut one need not w orry about ingesting pesticides w hen purchasing from farm s that use only organic pesticides.

The argum ent above assum es that

- (A) C onsum ers are aw are of the origins of the produce they purchase.
- (B) Produce from farm s that use organic pesticides reaches the consum er w ithin hours after it is picked or harvested.
- (C) N o farm uses both organic and inorganic pesticides.
- (D) N o pesticide is capable of penetrating the skin of a fruit or vegetable.
- (E) The use of either type of pesticide does not increase the cost of produce.

17.U nlike juvenile diabetes,w hich is a genetic condition present from birth,type-2 diabetes is acquired in adulthood, generally as a result of obesity and inactivity.The num ber of cases of type-2 diabetes has been steadily increasing in the U nited States since 1970,indicating to m any researchers that the A m erican population is becom ing increasingly heavy and sedentary.If the governm ent w ishes to stem the spread of the disease,it should educate the public about the dangers of an inactive,calorie-laden lifestyle and prom ote healthful diets and exercise.

W hich of the follow ing,if true,provides the strongest reason to believe that the proposed education program w ill N O T be effective?

- (A) School health program s already educate m iddle-school students about the issue.
- (B) The public already has access to this inform ation through the Internet.
- (C) Food com panies encourage the public to indulge in unhealthy snacks.
- (D) The governm ent has not set aside m oney for such a program .
- (E) H ealthy foods and exercise program s are beyond the financial m eans of m any people.

18.The exchange rate betw een the currency of C ountry X and that of C ountry Y has historically favored the currency of C ountry Y .B ecause of this,citizens of C ountry Y often take their vacations in C ountry X ,w here the exchange rate m akes hotels and restaurants m ore affordable.Y et,citizens of C ountry Y rarely purchase clothing or electronics in C ountry X ,despite the fact that those item s are m ore expensive in their hom e country,even w hen sales taxes are taken into account.

W hich of the follow ing,if true,w ould best explain the buying habits of the citizens of C ountry Y ?

- (A) C itizens of C ountry Y prefer the fashions available in their ow n country.
- (B) Stores in C ountry X receive the latest fashions and technology several m onths after they are available in C ountry Y .
- (C) The citizens of C ountry X resent the buying pow er of the currency of C ountry Y .
- (D) The governm ent of C ountry Y im poses tariffs on im ported goods.
- (E) The currencies of C ountry X and C ountry Y are both w eak com pared to the currency of C ountry Z .

19.Every year,m any people becom e ill because of airborne m old spores in their hom es.A fter som eone becom es ill, specialists are often hired to eradicate the m old.These specialists look in dam p areas of the house,since m old is alm ost alw ays found in places w here there is substantial m oisture.If one w ishes to avoid m old poisoning, then,one should m ake sure to keep all internal plum bing in good condition to prevent leakage that could serve as a breeding ground for m old.

W hich of the follow ing is an assum ption on w hich the argum ent depends?

- (A) M old itself does not create m oisture.
- (B) M ost hom eow ners know enough about plum bing to determ ine w hether theirs is in good condition.
- (C) M old cannot grow in dry areas.
- (D) N o varieties of m old are harm less.
- (E) M old spores cannot be filtered from the air.

20. To prevent overcrowding, last month the town zoning board limited the number of new buildings that can be constructed in the town in any given year. The board claims that doing so will preserve open spaces and lessen the strain on municipal resources such as schools and garbage disposal. Critics of the changes argue that the plan will harm the community or, at the very least, will fail in its purpose.

Which of the following most supports the claims of the critics of the plan?

- (A) Other towns have had mixed success with similar zoning plans.
- (B) No new schools have been built in the town in ten years.
- (C) Property taxes in the town are higher than in neighboring towns.
- (D) Under the new plan, developers may still erect apartment buildings.
- (E) The nearest garbage dump is several miles away from the town.

21. Because of a rare type of fungus that killed off many cacao trees in Brazil, there was an unusually meager harvest of cacao beans this year. The wholesale price of cocoa solids and cocoa butter has increased significantly and is unlikely to fall in the foreseeable future. As a result, the retail price of chocolate is certain to increase within six months.

The answer to which of the following questions would provide information relevant to evaluating the argument above?

- (A) Has the price of cocoa solids and cocoa butter remained steady during other periods of poor harvest?
- (B) Are consumers willing to spend more for chocolate?
- (C) Have the prices of other ingredients in chocolate decreased recently?
- (D) What percentage of cacao trees in Brazil were affected by the fungus?
- (E) Can the fungus be eliminated within the next six months?

22. Two years ago, the cost of the raw material used in a particular product doubled after an earthquake disrupted production in the region where the material is mined. Since that time, the company that makes the product has seen its profit margins decline steadily. Aiming to improve profit margins, the company's head of engineering has decided that he must find a new source for the raw material.

Which of the following, if true, would cast the most doubt on the validity of the head of engineering's decision?

- (A) New competitors have entered the market every six months for the past two years, resulting in price wars that have progressively driven down revenues across the market.
- (B) Although the earthquake occurred two years ago, the region's mines have still not recovered to pre-earthquake production capacity.
- (C) There are several other regions in the world where the raw material is mined, but those regions do not produce as much of the raw material as the current source region.
- (D) The company could use a completely different raw material to make its product.
- (E) Recent advances in mining technology will make mining the raw material much more efficient and cost-effective in the future.

23. According to a recent research study, more than 90% percent of graduates of private high schools in a certain county continue their education in college. By contrast, only 65% of graduates of public high schools subsequently pursue college education. Therefore, if parents in the county wish to increase the likelihood that their children will attend college, they should send them to private rather than public schools.

Which of the following statements would most seriously weaken the argument above?

- (A) Graduates of private schools typically score higher on standardized tests and other tests of academic achievement.
- (B) While private schools are typically very expensive, attendance of public school is free for the residents of the county.
- (C) In comparison with graduates of private schools, a substantially greater proportion of public school graduates receive need-based financial aid for their college education.
- (D) In comparison with private schools, public schools provide more opportunities for student involvement in sports and other athletic activities, which almost always increase the likelihood of students' acceptance to colleges.
- (E) Since most public schools are located in rural areas of the county populated primarily by farmers, nearly 30% of students from public high schools choose to pursue farming occupations rather than apply to colleges.

24. Due to high jet fuel costs, airline carriers are looking for new ways to increase revenues and thereby counteract declining profits. Airline A has proposed increasing the number of passengers that can fit on its airplanes by creating several standing room only "seats" in which passengers would be propped against a padded backboard and held in place with a harness. This proposal, since it relates to passenger safety, cannot be implemented without prior approval by the Federal Aviation Administration.

The above statements, if true, indicate that Airline A has made which of the following conclusions?

- (A) The addition of standing room only "seats" will generate more revenue than the cost of ensuring that these seats meet safety standards.
- (B) The Federal Aviation Administration will approve Airline A's specific proposal.
- (C) The revenue generated by the addition of standing room only "seats" is greater than the current cost of jet fuel.
- (D) There are no safer ways in which Airline A can increase revenues.
- (E) Passenger safety is less important than increasing revenue.

25. A recent development in the marketplace for consumer technology goods has been the premium placed on design — products with innovative and appealing designs relative to competing products can often command substantially higher prices. **Because design innovations are quickly copied by other manufacturers though** many consumer technology companies charge as much as possible when it comes to their new designs to extract as much value as possible from their new designs. But large profits generated by the innovative design will give competitors stronger incentives to copy the designs. **Therefore, the best strategy to maximize overall profit from an innovative new design is to charge less than the greatest possible price.**

In the argument above, the two portions in boldface play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first is an assumption that assists a course of action criticized by the argument; the second provides a consideration to support the argument's recommended position.
- (B) The first is a consideration that helps explain the appeal of a certain strategy; the second presents an alternative strategy endorsed by the argument.
- (C) The first is an assumption that justifies a specific strategy; the second is that strategy.
- (D) The first is a consideration presented to demonstrate that a particular strategy will not apply; the second is a factor cited to support the argument's main position.
- (E) The first is a factor used to justify a particular strategy; the second is a factor against that strategy.

26. Smoking is a known cause of certain serious health problems, including emphysema and lung cancer. Now, an additional concern can be added to the list of maladies caused by smoking. A recent study surveyed both smokers and nonsmokers, and found that smokers are significantly more anxious and nervous than nonsmokers.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument rests?

- (A) Anxiety and nervousness can lead to serious health problems.
- (B) Anxiety and nervousness do not make individuals more likely to start smoking.
- (C) Equivalent numbers of smokers and nonsmokers were surveyed for the study.
- (D) Smokers are aware of the various health problems attributed to smoking, including lung cancer and emphysema.
- (E) Smokers who had smoked a cigarette immediately before responding to the survey were more anxious and nervous than smokers who had not smoked for several hours.

27. The number of new cases of tuberculosis diagnosed in Country X increased dramatically this year. The country's news media have speculated that the sharp increase in new cases is the result of the tuberculosis outbreak that occurred in neighboring Country Y last year. Health officials in Country X have therefore proposed that all visitors from Country Y must submit to a medical examination before entering Country X.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly suggests that the proposed medical examinations will NOT help curb the spread of tuberculosis in Country X?

- (A) Country Z, which also neighbors Country Y, has not experienced an increase in cases of tuberculosis.
- (B) Current medical technology is not capable of detecting all carriers of tuberculosis.
- (C) Country X does not have the resources to examine all visitors from Country Y.
- (D) Tuberculosis is not spread through human contact.
- (E) Citizens of Country Y will not travel to Country X if the proposal is implemented.

28. The people of Prohibitionland are considering banning the service of alcoholic beverages in restaurants to curb unruly behavior on the part of its residents. Proprietors of restaurants in Prohibitionland are protesting the ban on the grounds that it will reduce their revenues and profits. However, several provinces in Prohibitionland enacted restrictions on alcoholic beverages last year, and the sales taxes paid by the restaurants in those provinces rose by an average of 50 percent. In contrast, the sales taxes paid by restaurants located in areas of Prohibitionland that did not have any restrictions rose by an average of 30 percent.

Which of the following, if true, supports the restaurant proprietors' economic stance against the ban?

- (A) In the provinces that restricted alcoholic beverages, there was a short-term negative impact on restaurant visitation in the beginning of last year.
- (B) The sales tax in Prohibitionland is lower on food and beverages than it is on other consumer goods, such as clothing.
- (C) The consumption of alcoholic beverages in Prohibitionland has been on a gradual decline the last 20 years.
- (D) The restrictions on alcoholic beverages enacted last year allowed for the service of drinks beginning around dinnertime each evening.
- (E) Overall sales tax revenue did not increase at a substantially higher rate in the provinces that enacted the restrictions on alcoholic beverages than in the rest of Prohibitionland last year.

29. Serious individual art collectors are usually discreet when making significant purchases or sales related to their collections. At art auctions, for example, these collectors often place anonymous bids for major artwork. Therefore, the whereabouts of most of the world's most valuable artwork is probably unknown.

Each of the following, if true, would weaken the conclusion above EXCEPT:

- (A) The value of a piece of art is purely subjective.

- (B) Serious art collectors usually publicize their new artwork several months after making a purchase.
- (C) Museums own the vast majority of the world's most valuable artwork.
- (D) Of all the individuals in the world who own extremely valuable artwork, only a few are considered serious art collectors.
- (E) The private collections of most serious individual art collectors are often displayed in public settings.

30. Last January, in an attempt to lower the number of traffic fatalities, the state legislature passed its "Click It or Ticket" law. Under the new law, motorists can be pulled over and ticketed for not wearing their seat belts, even if an additional driving infraction has not been committed. Lawyers and citizens' groups are already protesting the law, saying it unfairly infringes on the rights of the state's drivers. Law enforcement groups counter these claims by stating that the new regulations will save countless additional lives.

Which of the following inferences is best supported by the passage above?

- (A) Prior to the "Click It or Ticket" law, motorists could not be stopped simply for not wearing a seat belt.
- (B) The "Click It or Ticket" law violates current search and seizure laws.
- (C) Laws similar to "Click It or Ticket" have effectively reduced traffic fatalities in a number of states.
- (D) The previous seatbelt laws were ineffective in saving lives.
- (E) Law enforcement groups, rather than citizens groups, should determine how to best ensure the safety of motorists.

31. Calorie restriction, a diet high in nutrients but low in calories, is known to prolong the life of rats and mice by preventing heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and other diseases. A 6-month study of 48 moderately overweight people, who each reduced their calorie intake by at least 25 percent, demonstrated decreases in insulin levels and body temperature, with the greatest decrease observed in individuals with the greatest percentage change in their calorie intake. Low insulin level and body temperature are both considered signs of longevity, partly because an earlier study by other researchers found both traits in long-lived people.

If the above statements are true, they support which of the following inferences?

- (A) Calorie restriction produces similar results in humans as it does in rats and mice.
- (B) Humans who reduce their calorie intake by at least 25 percent on a long-term basis will live longer than they would have had they not done so.
- (C) Calorie intake is directly correlated to insulin level in moderately overweight individuals.
- (D) Individuals with low insulin levels are healthier than individuals with high insulin levels.
- (E) Some individuals in the study reduced their calorie intake by more than 25 percent.

32. Ensuring that children consume less sugar is among the most effective ways to curb childhood obesity. Recently, with this goal in mind, school officials have begun to replace high-calorie sugary drinks in school vending machines with bottled water, unsweetened fruit juices, and sugar-free sodas. Since students spend so much time in school, officials reason that removing access to sugary drinks during school hours will cause a dramatic reduction in the intake of sugar.

Which of the following, if true, most undermines the school officials' plan?

- (A) Unsweetened fruit juices contain more sugar than does bottled water.
- (B) Many students have access to sugary drinks both before and after school.
- (C) Sugar-free sodas contain artificial sweeteners that some medical officials link to headaches and other health concerns.
- (D) Sugary snack foods comprise the majority of sales in school vending machines.

(E) The average school-aged child consumes two twenty-ounce sugary drinks every day.

33. Recent research has indicated that married people are not only happier than unmarried people, but also healthier. This study has been widely reported by the media, with most commentators concluding that being married is good for one's health and attitude.

The conclusion of the media commentators depends on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) The longer people are married, the happier and healthier they become.
- (B) Married couples who had a large, extravagant wedding are happier than those who had a small, simple ceremony.
- (C) Married people cannot get depressed.
- (D) Single people with depression or health problems are just as likely to get married as are other single people.
- (E) Some marriages are more harmful than others.

34. For nearly a century, physiologists erroneously believed that a **buildup of lactic acid in muscle tissue was responsible for the soreness that many people experience after strenuous exercise**. The acid, they claimed, is the waste produced by metabolic activity in the muscle and reaches "threshold" levels, causing soreness, when the muscle has depleted its oxygen supply. **Researchers have recently discovered, however, that lactic acid is actually the fuel that powers muscular activity**. Therefore, the cause of muscle soreness remains unknown.

In the argument above, the portions in boldface play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first is an assertion that the author accepts as true; the second is a consideration in support of that assertion.
- (B) The first is an assertion that the author accepts as true; the second describes a situation that the author posits as contrary to that assertion.
- (C) The first is an assertion that the author argues against; the second is evidence presented as contrary to the author's argument.
- (D) The first is evidence that the author believes is no longer valid; the second is additional evidence that the author uses to support his main point.
- (E) The first is a claim that the author believes to be invalid; the second is the author's main point.

35. An oil field prospector and developer reported a large oil deposit in southwestern Texas. As a result, a large oil and gas company purchased the field with the intention of drilling oil wells in the area soon afterwards. However, the company found that what had been reported to be a large oil deposit was actually much smaller than had been indicated. Thus, the methods that the prospector had used to determine the size of the oil deposit must have been inaccurate.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- (A) The company's methods of measuring the size of the oil deposit were determined by a third party to be more accurate than those used by the prospector.
- (B) The prospector did not purposefully fabricate or misrepresent the size of the oil deposit. (C) Though smaller than originally thought, the oil deposit contained enough oil to make drilling commercially feasible.
- (D) The prospector did not explore other oil fields and use the same methods to determine the magnitude of the oil present, if any.
- (E) The company had successfully drilled for oil in other large oil fields in Texas throughout the early

twentieth century.

36. According to a recent study on financial roles, one-third of high school seniors say that they have "significant financial responsibilities." These responsibilities include, but are not limited to, contributing to food, shelter, or clothing for themselves or their families. At the same time, a second study demonstrates that a crisis in money management exists for high school students. According to this study, 80% of high school seniors have never taken a personal finance class even though the same percentage of seniors has opened bank accounts and one-third of these account holders has bounced a check.

Which of the following conclusions can be properly drawn from the statements above?

- (A) High schools would be wise to incorporate personal finance classes into their core curricula.
- (B) At least one-third of high school seniors work part-time jobs after school.
- (C) The number of high school seniors with significant financial responsibilities is greater than the number of seniors who have bounced a check.
- (D) Any high school seniors who contribute to food, shelter, or clothing for themselves or their families have significant financial responsibilities.
- (E) The majority of high school students have no financial responsibilities to their families.

37. Federal law prohibits businesses from reimbursing any employees for the cost of owning and operating a private aircraft that is used for business purposes. Thus, many American companies themselves purchase private aircraft. The vast majority of the business aviation fleet is owned by small and mid-size businesses, and flights are strictly for business purposes, with mostly mid-level employees on board. These companies and their boards of directors are in full compliance with the law and with what is best for their businesses.

Which of the following can be most properly inferred from the statements above?

- (A) The federal law in question costs businesses money.
- (B) Most executives would rather fly on company owned planes than on commercial airlines.
- (C) Large businesses usually have their executives fly first or business class on commercial flights.
- (D) Upper-level executives are less often in compliance with the law.
- (E) By not receiving any reimbursement for these flights, the mid-level executives on board are complying with the law.

38. Experts estimate that insurance companies' tardiness in paying doctors for legitimate medical claims adds approximately 10 percent in overhead costs for physicians. Insurance companies counter that the tardiness sometimes results from billing errors made by the doctors themselves. Since dealing with these billing errors costs the insurance companies time and money, it is clear that insurance companies do not have a significant economic incentive to delay claim payments to doctors.

Which of the following pieces of information, if true, weakens the conclusion above?

- (A) Some doctors who submit accurate bills to insurance companies still receive tardy payments.
- (B) The cost to the insurance companies to process incorrect bills from doctors' offices is roughly equivalent to the increased costs that physicians accrue as a result of tardy payments from insurance companies.
- (C) A rising proportion of medical claims submitted by doctors to insurance companies are deemed illegitimate by those insurance companies.
- (D) The billing errors made by doctors' offices are typically very minor, such as the submission of a claim with an outdated patient home address.
- (E) The overhead costs incurred by doctors as a result of delayed insurance payments result in an increase

in the premiums paid by consumers to health insurance companies that far exceeds any increase in the fees paid to doctors by insurance companies.

39. Farmers in developing countries claim that the U.S. government, through farm subsidies, is responsible for the artificially low global price of wheat. Because the U.S. government buys whatever wheat American farmers are unable to sell on the open market, American farmers have no incentive to modulate the size of their crops according to the needs of the global market. As a result, American farmers routinely produce more wheat than the global market can absorb and the global price of wheat is kept low. Without these subsidies, the farmers in developing countries claim, American farmers would produce only the amount of wheat that they could sell on the open market and the global price of wheat would rise.

Which of the following, if true, most weakens the claims of the farmers in developing countries regarding the price of wheat?

- (A) Wheat that is not processed for consumption is often used for certain industrial applications.
- (B) Non-governmental buyers of wheat and wheat products are able to predict how much wheat they will need several years in advance.
- (C) The U.S. government offers similar subsidies to soybean farmers, though the global price of soybeans is significantly higher than that of wheat.
- (D) Other countries, such as Canada and Russia, are likely to produce more wheat if the United States were to reduce its output.
- (E) The price of sorghum, a crop for which the U.S. government offers no subsidies, is lower than that of wheat.

40. Researchers studying the spread of the Black Plague in sixteenth-century England claim that certain people survived the epidemic because they carried a genetic mutation, known as Delta-32, that is known to prevent the bacteria that causes the plague from overtaking the immune system. To support this hypothesis, the researchers tested the direct descendants of the residents of an English town where an unusually large proportion of people survived the plague. More than half of these descendants tested positive for the mutation Delta-32, a figure nearly three times higher than that found in other locations.

The researchers' hypothesis is based on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) Delta-32 does not prevent a carrier from contracting any disease other than the plague.
- (B) The plague is not similar to other diseases caused by bacteria.
- (C) Delta-32 did not exist in its current form until the sixteenth century.
- (D) No one who tested positive for Delta-32 has ever contracted a disease caused by bacteria.
- (E) The plague does not cause genetic mutations such as Delta-32.

41. The state legislature has asked the public to approve a bond that would raise money for public library funding outside of the existing state budget. While building and improving libraries are certainly worthy projects, and ones that the public supports, the legislature is already wasting much of the state budget on projects that the public does not value or even want. The public should therefore reject the library bond; doing so will force legislators to cut wasteful programs from the existing budget if they wish to fund libraries.

Which of the following is most like the argument above in its logical structure?

- (A) Many children would choose to eat dessert before dinner, if given the option. While this is understandable, parents should allow a child to eat dessert only if he or she first finishes the healthier dinner.
- (B) While alarm systems are good for the individual property owner, homeowners do a disservice to their

neighbors by installing alarm systems because neighboring homes are then comparatively easy targets for burglars. Instead, homeowners should consider alternative home protection measures such as joining a neighborhood watch program.

- (C) Some terrorist groups kidnap individuals to gain publicity for their cause. While it is understandable that the families of kidnapping victims often want to cooperate in order to get loved ones returned safely, this country should continue its policy of refusing to negotiate with terrorists or publicize the kidnapping.
- (D) A labor union and a major employer are engaged in contract negotiations. While the employer proposed a pay increase matches that requested by the labor union, the contract does not include the health care coverage that the labor union also requested. The labor union should therefore reject the contract and continue negotiations.
- (E) A student often asks his parents to stay up past his normal bedtime in order to finish his homework because he spends much of his afternoon playing games with friends rather than working on homework. Although his parents want him to do well in school, they should strictly enforce his bedtime; doing so will force the student to start working on his homework earlier in the evening.

42. In a certain state, hunting permits require the hunter to be at least 18 years old, possess a valid driver's license or state identification, and have completed a safety program within the past 5 years. The hunter must also sign a legal document pledging not to consume alcohol while hunting.

Which of the following can be correctly inferred from the above statements?

- (A) All states have the same requirements for hunting permits.
- (B) Hunters under the age of 21 don't need to sign the alcohol pledge because they are not legally allowed to drink alcohol under any circumstances.
- (C) If a person last completed the safety program six years ago, he will have to complete the program again before he can be eligible for a permit in this state.
- (D) Someone who isn't 18 years old cannot obtain a hunting permit in this state.
- (E) Hunting is such a dangerous activity that state controls and requirements are necessary to ensure that nobody gets hurt.

43. Wide dissemination of wireless networks in cities is a practical way to meet the needs of city households, schools and businesses. Rural communities have found that wireless networks are both more reliable and cheaper than land-based networks.

Which of the following would most likely be cited by a supporter of the argument?

- (A) Urban areas do not pose additional problems for the effective operation of wireless networks.
- (B) Wireless networks work far better where population density is low.
- (C) Iceland, a very rural country, successfully uses wireless networks.
- (D) The expenses of wireless transmission in areas with large buildings is much higher.
- (E) Poor neighborhoods have less access to cable internet than do educators or businesses.

44. Studies have shown that **people who keep daily diet records are far more successful at losing weight than people who don't keep track of what they eat**. Researchers believe that many weight-loss efforts fail because people eat more calories than they intend to consume. One study followed a group of patients who reported that they could not lose weight when consuming only 1,200 calories a day. **The study found that the group consumed, on average, 47% more than it claimed and exercised 51% less**. In contrast, when dieters record what they eat, their actual consumption more closely matches their reported consumption.

The two boldface portions in the argument above are best described by which of the following statements?

- (A) The first is a conclusion reached by researchers;the second is evidence that that conclusion is correct.
- (B) The first is an explanation of w hy a certain theory is thought to be true;the second is an exam ple of research results that support this theory.
- (C) The first is an exam ple illustrating the truth of a certain theory;the second is a com peting theory. (D) The first is a prem ise upon w hich the researchers base their opinion;the second illustrates that their opinion is correct.
- (E) The first introduces a theory that the researchers have disproved;the second is the basis for the researchers' argum ent.

45.The anticipated retirem ent of tens of thousands of baby boom ers w ill create an unprecedented opportunity to m ove significant num bers of people into career-track jobs at fam ily-supporting incom es.M ajor industries,from health care and construction to autom otive repair,w ill soon face deep shortages of w orkers as a result of projected grow th and boom er retirem ents.Fortunately,m any of these jobs have relatively low barriers to entry and could be filled by out-of-w ork young people.To achieve this result,the city governm ent should convene em ployers and educators to determ ine how best to create paths of upw ard m obility in these fields.

W hich of the follow ing,if true,m ost w eakens the argum ent?

- (A) Im m igration reform w ill lim it the pool of available w orkers.
- (B) G overnm ent efforts have been show n to affect em ployem ent trends only rarely.
- (C) The best available positions require skills not possessed by the vast m ajority of the unem ployed. (D) A sm all proportion of baby boom ers w ill not retire as soon as is anticipated.
- (E) M any out-of-w ork young people are unaw are of these loom ing em ployem ent opportunities.

46.The “D oppler effect” refers to the perceived change in pitch that occurs w hen the source of a sound is in m otion relative to the observer.For exam ple,the siren on a passing police car w ill sound higher than its true pitch as the car approaches,sound the sam e as its true pitch as the car passes,and sound low er than its true pitch as the car travels aw ay from the observer.

If tw o trains pass each other going opposite directions on parallel east-w est tracks,w hich of the follow ing observations provides another illustration of the effect described above?

- (A) If the eastbound train blow s its horn as they pass,passengers on the w estbound train w ill hear a sound that decreases in pitch.
- (B) If the eastbound train blow s its horn as they pass,passengers on the w estbound train w ill hear a sound that increases in pitch.
- (C) If the eastbound train blow s its horn as they pass,passengers on the eastbound train w ill hear a sound that decreases in pitch.
- (D) If the eastbound train blow s its horn as they pass,passengers on the eastbound train w ill hear a sound that increases in pitch.
- (E) If the eastbound train blow s its horn as they pass,passengers on the eastbound train w ill hear a sound that is steady in pitch.

47.The popular notion that a tree’s age can be determ ined by counting the num ber of internal rings in its trunk is generally true.H ow ever,to help regulate the internal tem perature of the tree,the outerm ost layers of w ood of the B razilian ash often peel aw ay w hen the tem perature exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit,leaving the tree w ith few er rings than it w ould otherw ise have.So only if the tem perature in the B razilian ash’s environm ent never exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit w ill its rings be a reliable m easure of the tree’s age.

W hich of the follow ing is an assum ption on w hich the argum ent above depends?

- (A) The grow th of new rings in a tree is not a function of levels of precipitation.
- (B) O nly the B razilian ash loses rings because of excessive heat.
- (C) O nly one day of tem peratures above 95 degrees Fahrenheit is needed to cause the B razilian ash to lose a ring.
- (D) The internal rings of all trees are of uniform thickness.
- (E) The num ber of rings that w ill be lost w hen the tem perature exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit is not predictable.

48.C eliac disease results from an inability of the digestive tract,specifically the sm all intestine,to absorb gluten,a protein found in w heat,barley,and certain other grains.The body's im m une system attacks the gluten as if the protein w ere a harm ful pathogen,often resulting in serious dam age to the intestinal lining.People w ho suffer from celiac disease m ust elim inate gluten from their diets.Sym ptom s of the disease include abdom inal cram ps, bloating,and anem ia.

If the statem ents above are true,w hich of the follow ing assertions can be m ade on the basis of them ?

- (A) A nyone w ho suffers from celiac disease w ill experience anem ia.
- (B) Elim inating gluten from one's diet w ill cure celiac disease.
- (C) People experiencing abdom inal cram ps,bloating,and anem ia have celiac disease.
- (D) G luten is found only in grains.
- (E) The hum an body cannot alw ays recognize harm less substances.

49.A ll languages know n to have exactly six basic color term s describe the sam e six colors— black,w hite,red,green, blue and yellow — corresponding to the prim ary neural responses revealed in studies of hum an color perception. In addition,all languages know n to have only three basic color term s distinguish am ong black,w hite,and red. This evidence show s that the w ay in w hich the m ind recognizes differences am ong colored objects is not influenced by culture.

W hich of the follow ing,if true,m ost seriously w eakens the argum ent above?

- (A) W hile languages differ in their num ber of basic color term s,no language has been conclusively determ ined to have m ore than eleven such term s.
- (B) Every language contains m echanism s by w hich speakers w ho perceive subtle differences in hue can describe those differences.
- (C) A m ong cultures em ploying only three color term s,the w ord red typically encom passes not only objects that w ould be called red in English but also those that w ould be called yellow .
- (D) Several languages,such as V ietnam ese and Pashto,use a single term to m ean both blue and green,but speakers of such languages com m only refer to tree leaves or the sky to resolve am biguous utterances.
- (E) In a study of native speakers of Tarahum ara,a language that does not distinguish betw een blue and green,respondents w ere less able to identify distinctions am ong blue and green chips than native speakers of Spanish,w hich does distinguish betw een blue and green.

50.In an attem pt to discover the cause of m alaria,a deadly infectious disease com m on in tropical areas,early European settlers in H ong K ong attributed the m alady to poisonous gases supposed to be em anating from low - lying sw am pland.**M alaria,in fact,translates from the Italian as “bad air.”** In the 1880s,how ever,doctors determ ined that *Anopheles* m osquitoes w ere responsible for transm itting the disease to hum ans.**The fem ale of the species can carry a parasitic protozoa that is passed on to unsuspecting hum ans** w hen a m osquito feasts on a person's blood.

W hat functions do the tw o statem ents in boldface fulfill w ith respect to the argum ent presented above?

- (A) The first follow s from a m istaken conclusion about a topic in question;the second explicates the correct explanation of that topic.
- (B) The first provides an initial conjecture;the second prevents evidence w hich contradicts that conjecture.
- (C) The first serves to illum inate a contested assum ption;the second offers confirm ation of that assum ption.
- (D) The first identifies the cause of an erroneous conclusion;the second develops a prem ise to support the correct conclusion.
- (E) The first provides detail about the original,and incorrect,school of thought;the second provides the judgm ent later found to be true.

51.G overnm ent restrictions have severely lim ited the am ount of stem cell research A m erican com panies can conduct.B ecause of these restrictions,m any A m erican scientists w ho specialize in the field of stem cell research have signed long-term contracts to w ork for foreign com panies.R ecently,C ongress has proposed lifting all restrictions on stem cell research.

W hich of the follow ing conclusions can m ost properly be inferred from the inform ation above?

- (A) A t least som e foreign com panies that conduct stem cell research w ork under few er restrictions than som e A m erican com panies do.
- (B) B ecause A m erican scientists are under long-term contracts to foreign com panies,there w ill be a significant influx of foreign professionals into the U nited States.
- (C) In all parts of the w orld,stem cell research is dependent on the financial backing of local governm ent.
- (D) In the near future,A m erican com panies w ill no longer be at the forefront of stem cell research.
- (E) If restrictions on stem cell research are lifted,m any of the A m erican scientists w ill break their contracts to return to A m erican com panies.

52.If life exists elsew here in the solar system ,scientists suspect it w ould m ost likely be on Europa,an ice covered m oon orbiting Jupiter.H ow ever,N A SA recently scrapped an unnm anned science m ission to Europa and reassigned m ost of the em ployees involved in the project to another project w hich focuses on landing an astronaut on M ars.Polls show that A m ericans are far m ore fascinated by space travel than they are by discovering life elsew here in the universe.C ritics argue that N A SA 's decision-m aking process places a greater em phasis on public interest than it does on the im portance of scientific research.

W hich of the follow ing,if true,w ould m ost strengthen N A SA 's contention that the critics are m isinform ed?

- (A) In 2007,N A SA w ill spend 30% of it's total budget on developing a space shuttle that can travel to M ars.In 2013,that figure is expected to drop to 0% .
- (B) Studies have show n that C ongress traditionally determ ines N A SA 's budget based on its perception of public interest in N A SA 's projects.
- (C) Som e scientists are convinced that a m ission to Europa w ould add im m easurably to our understanding of the universe;others believe that w e w ill gain little insight from exploring Europa.
- (D) A new telescope that has been developed in Tokyo allow s scientists to look at Europa in w ays never possible before and prom ises to yield m ore inform ation than the planned m ission w as designed to provide.
- (E) M ost A m ericans feel that a shuttle to M ars is the next logical step in the developm ent of a system that w ill eventually allow hum ans to travel to places as far aw ay as Europa and beyond.

53.D engue fever is a viral infection transm itted by the *Aedes m osquito*,w hereas m alaria is a parasitic infection transm itted by the *Anopheles m osquito*.Since both types of m osquito are prevalent on N icaragua's "M osquito Coast," anyone w ith a com prom ised im m une system should not travel to this region,particularly during the rainy season.

Which of the following, if true, least strengthens the argument presented above?

- (A) Medicines taken to prevent or treat malaria can cause serious health complications for people with weak immune systems.
- (B) The Nicaraguan government is trying to reduce the number of mosquitoes on the Mosquito Coast.
- (C) A compromised immune system has difficulty fighting either viral or parasitic infections.
- (D) During the rainy season, the populations of both *Aedes* and *Anopheles* mosquitoes multiply in the Mosquito Coast.
- (E) The most effective chemical insect repellent has been shown to cause brain damage upon repeated application to the skin.

54. In 2001, the Peruvian government began requiring tourists to buy expensive permits to hike the remote Inca Trail, which goes to the ancient city of Machu Picchu. The total number of permits is strictly limited; in fact, only 500 people per day are now allowed to hike the Inca Trail, whereas before 2001, visitors numbered in the thousands. The Peruvian government argues that this permit program has successfully prevented deterioration of archaeological treasures along the Inca Trail.

Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument above?

- (A) Since 2001, tourist guides along the Inca Trail have received 50% to 100% increases in take-home pay.
- (B) Villages near Machu Picchu have experienced declines in income, as fewer tourists buy fewer craft goods and refreshments.
- (C) Many of the funds from the sale of Inca Trail permits are used to staff a museum of Incan culture in Peru's capital city, Lima, and to hire guards for archaeological sites without permit programs.
- (D) Since 2001, Incan ruins similar to Machu Picchu but not on the Inca Trail have disintegrated at a significantly greater rate than those on the trail.
- (E) The total number of tourists in Peru has risen substantially since 2001, even as the number of tourists hiking the Inca Trail has remained constant.

55. The Farm Sley Center for the Performing Arts, designed by a world-renowned architect, was built ten years ago in downtown Metropolis. A recent study shows that, on average, a person who attends a performance at the Farm Sley Center spends \$83 at downtown businesses on the day of the performance. Citing this report, the chairman of the Farm Sley Center's Board of Trustees claims that the Farm Sley Center has been a significant source of the economic revitalization of downtown Metropolis.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the chairman's contention?

- (A) The Metropolis Chamber of Commerce honored the Farm Sley chairman this year for his contributions to the city.
- (B) Restaurants near the Farm Sley Center tend to be more expensive than restaurants in outlying areas.
- (C) The Farm Sley Center is the only building in Metropolis designed by a world-renowned contemporary architect.
- (D) For major theater companies on national tours, the Farm Sley Center is the first choice among venues in downtown Metropolis.
- (E) Many suburbanites visit downtown Metropolis on weekends in order to see performances at the Farm Sley Center.

56. One retirement account option allows a worker to save money without paying taxes, but requires the worker to pay taxes on funds withdrawn from the account upon retirement. A second option requires the worker to pay taxes upfront, but allows the worker to withdraw funds tax-free upon retirement. Assuming that the total amount

available in the worker's retirement account at retirement is higher than the total amount contributed prior to retirement, workers can expect to pay less in taxes overall if they choose the second option.

Which of the following pieces of information would be most useful in determining whether the conclusion is valid for an individual worker?

- (A) The amount of money the worker will contribute to the retirement plan over his or her career.
- (B) The amount that tax rates will increase in the future.
- (C) Whether or not inflation will be lower than the retirement account's annual earnings.
- (D) How the worker's tax bracket in retirement compares to his or her tax bracket while still employed.
- (E) The dollar value of the worker's account upon retirement.

57. In a recent poll, 71% of respondents reported that they cast votes in the most recent national election. Voting records show, however, that only 60% of eligible voters actually voted in that election.

Which of the following pieces of evidence, if true, would provide the best explanation for the apparent discrepancy?

- (A) The margin of error for the survey was plus or minus five percentage points.
- (B) Fifteen percent of the survey's respondents were living overseas at the time of the election.
- (C) Prior research has shown that people who actually do vote are also more likely to respond to polls than those who do not vote.
- (D) Many people who intend to vote are prevented from doing so by last-minute conflicts on election day or other complications.
- (E) Some people confused the national election with other recent elections when responding to the poll.

58. Scientists recently documented that influenza spreads around the world more efficiently in the modern era due to commercial air travel. Symptoms of a pandemic-level flu are severe enough that the ill would likely cancel or reschedule air travel, but an infected person can travel across the globe before the first signs appear. Further, if symptoms develop while someone is still on a plane, the infected person's cough can spread the virus easily in the enclosed and closely-packed environment.

Which of the following would best minimize the role air travel can play in the spread of influenza during a pandemic?

- (A) Installing air filtration systems in the planes to kill any flu virus particles flowing through the filters.
- (B) Requiring air travelers to receive flu vaccinations far enough in advance of the trip to provide protection against the disease.
- (C) Refusing to allow children, the elderly, or others who are especially vulnerable to flu to travel by air during a pandemic.
- (D) Requiring all air travelers to wash their hands before boarding a plane.
- (E) Conducting medical examinations during the boarding process to weed out passengers with flu symptoms.

59. Male CEOs of major corporations are, on average, three inches taller than the average male. When data from the general population are analyzed and corrected for gender and age, a clear pattern emerges: for every extra inch of height, a person's annual salary increases by approximately \$789. Citing these data, a prominent journalist claims that most employers have an unconscious bias in favor of tall people.

Which of the following considerations, if true, would most seriously undermine the journalist's argument?

- (A) On average, a woman is shorter than her husband and earns less than he does.
- (B) Socioeconomic status has been shown to have a strong positive correlation to both height and educational attainment.
- (C) Professional basketball players, who are some of the tallest people in the labor force, have high incomes.
- (D) Human resource professionals, who make many hiring decisions, are on average no taller than the general population.
- (E) A tall person's tenure in a paid position is typically shorter than is the tenure of a person of average height.

60. Traditionally, public school instructors have been compensated according to seniority. Recently, the existing salary system has been increasingly criticized as an approach to compensation that rewards lackadaisical teaching and punishes motivated, highly-qualified instruction. Instead, educational experts argue that, to retain exceptional teachers and maintain quality instruction, teachers should receive salaries or bonuses based on performance rather than seniority.

Which of the following, if true, most weakens the conclusion of the educational experts?

- (A) Some teachers express that financial compensation is not the only factor contributing to job satisfaction and teaching performance.
- (B) School districts will develop their own unique compensation structures that may differ greatly from those of other school districts.
- (C) Upon leaving the teaching profession, many young teachers cite a lack of opportunity for more rapid financial advancement as a primary factor in the decision to change careers.
- (D) A merit-based system that bases compensation on teacher performance reduces collaboration, which is an integral component of quality instruction.
- (E) In school districts that have implemented pay-for-performance compensation structures, standardized test scores have dramatically increased.

61. Network executives have alleged that television viewership is decreasing due to the availability of television programs on other platforms, such as the internet, video-on-demand, and mobile devices. These executives claim that **declining viewership will cause advertising revenue to fall so far that networks will be unable to spend the large sums necessary to produce programs of the quality now available.** That development, in turn, will lead to a dearth of programming for the very devices which cannibalized television's audience. However, technology executives point to research which indicates that **users of these devices increase the number of hours per week that they watch television** because they are exposed to new programs and promotional spots through these alternate platforms. This analysis demonstrates that networks can actually increase their revenue through higher advertising rates, due to larger audiences lured to television through other media.

In comparing the executives' arguments, the portions in boldface play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first is an inevitable trend that weighs against the argument; the second is that argument.
- (B) The first is a prediction that is challenged by the argument; the second is a finding upon which the argument depends.
- (C) The first clarifies the reasoning behind the argument; the second demonstrates why the argument is flawed.
- (D) The first acknowledges a position that the technology executives accept as true; the second is a consequence of that position.
- (E) The first restates the argument through an analogy; the second outlines a scenario in which that argument will not hold.

62. According to a study of more than 50,000 Norwegian smokers, smokers who reduced their nicotine intake from cigarettes, even by up to 50 percent, did not achieve significant health benefits. The mortality rate for those who cut back on cigarettes was not lower than that for heavier smokers; moreover, the rate of cardiovascular disease was similar across all subsets of smokers in the study. As a result, the sponsors of the study claim that reducing nicotine intake does not improve one's health.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously jeopardizes the findings of the study described above?

- (A) The majority of study participants minimized their nicotine withdrawal symptoms through the use of skin patches and chewing gum that provide nicotine to the body.
- (B) Many of the study's participants periodically dined in restaurants in which smoking was permitted.
- (C) The study's participants started smoking at different ages and had varied initial nicotine intake.
- (D) Quitting smoking entirely results in a marked reduction in the ill effects of smoking.
- (E) Men and women who smoked pipes and cigars were excluded from the study.

63. In developed countries, such as the United States, the percentage of the population diagnosed with clinical depression is much greater than that in developing countries. Researchers hypothesize that this difference is due to the increased leisure time afforded to residents of developed countries.

The hypothesis of the researchers depends on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) Clinical depression is a genetically transmitted malady.
- (B) Access to accurate diagnostic procedures for depression is equal for residents of developing and developed countries.
- (C) Most activities characterized as "leisure time" in developed countries are inherently boring.
- (D) Certain medications that effectively treat clinical depression are not readily available in developing countries.
- (E) Few residents of developing countries dedicate any of their time to leisure.

64. In an attempt to reduce misbehavior, the junior high school principal has decided to make punishments stricter, including prohibiting unruly students from having playtime outdoors. However, this action is clearly counter to the principal's goals, as studies have shown that students who frequently play outdoors are also less likely to misbehave.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- (A) The cited studies were conducted by academic researchers adhering to established standards of scientific research.
- (B) Students who have been punished by not having playtime outdoors are less likely to misbehave again in the future.
- (C) Well-behaved students do not share a particular trait, such as a desire to socialize with other well-behaved students, that leads them to play outdoors more frequently.
- (D) The principal's suggested policy will not be protested vehemently by local parents who want their children to play outdoors.
- (E) Playtime outdoors has not been demonstrated to have positive effects on the physical development of schoolchildren.

65. Most cable television companies currently require customers to subscribe to packages of channels, but consumer groups have recently proposed legislation that would force the companies to offer à la carte pricing as well. Subscribers would pay less, argue the consumer groups, because they could purchase only the desired channels. However, the cable industry argues that under the current package pricing, popular channels subsidize less-

popular ones, providing more options for viewers. For this reason, the industry claims that it is always cheaper for the consumer to purchase many bundled channels than to buy them individually.

Which of the following would be most important for the government to determine before deciding whether to require cable television companies to offer à la carte pricing in order to reduce consumer costs?

- (A) whether the total number of channels offered to consumers would decrease, along with programming diversity, as a result of the à la carte pricing structure
- (B) whether advertising revenue for the cable television companies would decrease as a result of the à la carte pricing structure
- (C) whether a large number of consumers would, in fact, significantly reduce the number of channels purchased if given the option of purchasing them individually
- (D) whether the number of cable television consumers has been declining as a result of new avenues of content delivery, such as the Internet
- (E) whether à la carte subscribers would be required to have new television set-top boxes

66. A certain pharmaceutical firm recently developed a new medicine, Dendadrine, that provides highly effective treatment of severe stomach disorders that were previously thought to be untreatable. However, to develop the new medicine, the company spent nearly \$5 billion in research and development costs. Given the size of the market for Dendadrine and the amount of the initial investment in its development, the company would need to sell Dendadrine at a price that is at least five times greater than its variable costs just to break even. Yet the company's management claims that Dendadrine will soon become the major driver of the firm's profits.

Which of the following statements best reconciles the management's claim with the evidence on the expenditures associated with the development of Dendadrine?

- (A) The pharmaceutical firm expects to be granted patent protection for Dendadrine; drugs under patent protection typically sell at prices that are approximately 10 times their variable costs.
- (B) The development of some pharmaceutical products involves substantial initial expenditures on research, testing, and approval.
- (C) In clinical tests, Dendadrine has proven far more effective at treating severe stomach disorders than any prior available treatments, without any serious side effects.
- (D) No competitors are developing or planning to develop new medicines that might compete with Dendadrine in the marketplace.
- (E) Millions of people suffer from severe stomach disorders, representing an estimated one to two billion dollars every year in revenue.

Logic-Based Reading Comprehension Answers

1.(C).You are asked to find a conclusion that the given information supports.For this sort of problem ,always stick as close as you can to the passage.The guidelines call for including vegetables (not fruits) in every meal.The school board has replaced fries with fruit.While this does sound like a nutritional improvement,all you can infer for certain is that the guidelines are not being met.

(A) You know nothing from the passage about the relative health value of fruits and vegetables.

(B) Likewise,the passage provides no information about how likely students are to eat any kind of food.Avoid bringing in outside knowledge or suppositions,when you are trying to draw a proper conclusion from given information.

(C) CORRECT .This choice spells out the only inference you can legally make: the board is not following the guidelines.

(D) You do not know whether the board is responsible for the health of the students.It may be,or it may not be.

(E) This opinion may seem reasonable,but it is not at all proven by the passage,which simply presents facts.In general,avoid making value judgments when drawing a conclusion from given factual information.The premises would have to contain opinions as well.

2.(C).You are asked to strengthen the conclusion,which is *public officials shouldn't buy lottery tickets* (as indicated by *Therefore*).Some of the answer choices provide reasons why *no one* should buy lottery tickets.However,you are looking for a choice that supports this *specific* conclusion in the context of this argument by linking the key premise (*buying lottery tickets is a form of gambling*) to the conclusion.You need either to state the missing assumption or provide direct support for it.

(A) People who play the lottery are not likely to win,it's true.This is a reason why people in general should not buy lottery tickets.But you need a stronger link between premise and conclusion.

(B) It's irrelevant whether some public officials are guilty of more serious offenses than gambling.

(C) CORRECT .This choice provides the link you seek.Premise: *Buying lottery tickets = gambling*.Conclusion: *Public officials shouldn't buy lottery tickets*.The missing assumption,which this choice supplies word for word,is *Public officials shouldn't gamble*.If an argument says *Certain people shouldn't do X because X is Y* ,then you need to assume that those people shouldn't do Y .

(D) It may be true that many officials are tempted to violate the rules,but even if so,it wouldn't strengthen a moral prohibition (the conclusion tells you what public officials *shouldn't* do).

(E) Like choice (A),this choice provides a reason why people in general shouldn't play the lottery,but it does not provide as strong support for the conclusion as choice (C) does.

3.(C).The question asks you to support a judgment (that is,a conclusion) on the basis of the statements in the passage.Remember to stay close to those statements— do not make additional assumptions.Look for what you can prove.

(A) Careful! You don't know whether *Tunbridge College provides the best value in the state* — the speaker has simply pointed out that Saddlebrook can't be the best value,since another college is a better value (in a variety of ways).It could be that Saddlebrook and Tunbridge are actually the 10th and 7th best values in the state,for instance.(Think about when you say things like,"Uncle Jay thinks he's the smartest person in our family? Even my eight-year-old is better at math than he is!" You're probably not arguing that your eight-year-old is the smartest person in the family — you're just pointing out that Uncle Jay can't be the best,since at least one other person is above him .)

(B) This choice is not a judgment that could be proven from premises.If you added it to the premises,it would perhaps weaken the argument that Tunbridge is a better value than Saddlebrook (for instance,higher-caliber students might be more likely to earn larger incomes after graduation,regardless of the value of the education).

(C) CORRECT .This choice takes a much safer position than choice (A).The second sentence in the passage describes various ways in which Tunbridge is a better value than Saddlebrook,and so you can conclude that Saddlebrook is *not* the best value.

(D) This choice represents an assumption in the argument — that income after graduation is part of evaluating which college provides the best value — but you are being asked here for a conclusion,not an assumption within the argument.

(E) This choice is irrelevant — *satisfaction* is not the same as *value*.

4.(B).This is a standard argument where the author (or,in this case,the researchers) have confused *correlation* with *causation*.If two traits X and Y are found together (in this case,red cars and speeding tickets),you do not have any particular reason to believe that X *causes* Y .After all,it could be that Y causes X ,or that some third factor Z causes both (in this case,the type of person who buys a red car also tends to get speeding tickets).In addition,you should notice that the correlation is specifically observed between the *color of the car* and the *number of speeding tickets*. Almost every driver knows,getting a speeding ticket depends on more than just speeding (driver behavior) — you also have to be unlucky enough to catch the attention of a police officer.Thus,the researchers have built in a second assumption — that the increased number of speeding *tickets* is the result of an increase in the number of speeding *infractions* (and not,say,the increase in *attention* that a red car might get).

(A) This choice regarding black cars is completely irrelevant to this argument.

(B) CORRECT .If the researchers believe this,they've eliminated the idea that the *reverse causation* could be possible.That is,this statement gets rid of the possibility that the color,rather than the increased speeding,is what is responsible for the increase in tickets.Note that this assumption is not the only one the argument requires,but it is certainly required by the argument.

(C) What color cars police officers drive does not matter at all.

(D) This choice focuses on an entirely different type of ticket — a parking ticket — and is thus irrelevant.You have no information regarding tendency to speed,which is necessary for the researcher's argument.

(E) This choice is outside the scope of the argument, as it deals with events after the act of speeding or the issuance of the ticket. It may give hope to drivers of red cars, but is completely irrelevant to the question at hand.

5. **(E)** The headmaster's argument explicitly relies on the idea that students perform better on math tests when they are fully awake. Noting the drop in scores, the headmaster reasons that this drop is due to the change in class time as opposed to any other factor or combination of factors. The assumption you are looking for must connect the dots between the time of the class and the waking state of the students.

(A) The logistics of the schedule are irrelevant to the headmaster's position that scores would improve if the class were moved.

(B) The time at which other schools hold math classes is irrelevant to the headmaster's argument, especially since the efficacy of that scheduling is not mentioned.

(C) The idea that the quality of teaching has little bearing on scores (whether or not you agree with this in the real world!) might provide a tiny bit of support to the headmaster's idea. After all, if the quality of teaching hardly influences test scores, another factor might be expected to have greater impact — and that factor might be time of day. However, it is a huge stretch to say that one must assume that some other factor (such as teaching quality) has little effect on test scores, in order to conclude that time of day could influence those scores.

(D) provides an alternative explanation as to why the scores might have dropped this year (the use of an unfamiliar curriculum), but this explanation is not an assumption upon which the headmaster's argument depends.

(E) CORRECT. This choice indicates the direct link needed between time of day and student wakefulness.

6. **(E)** ITEL believes that it hasn't lost its valuable employees after layoffs because it has a highly risk-tolerant environment. To further support this claim, you need information that supports the idea that *this specific reason* is why ITEL hasn't lost any of its valuable employees after the previous four layoffs.

(A) This choice offers one reason why those who do change their jobs might do so, but the conclusion in question here is why certain people would *keep* their jobs, not change their jobs.

(B) This is almost certainly true in the real world, but it does not directly address the specific question here: *why* ITEL claims it is able to retain its most valuable employees. Even if you say that this choice does offer an alternate explanation for the retention of employees (if a company handles the layoffs well, valuable employees may be more likely to stay), then this choice would actually weaken the conclusion. It would offer an alternate explanation as to why ITEL is retaining its employees, not the reason ITEL claims.

(C) This choice does the opposite of what you want: it weakens the conclusion. If people are staying with ITEL because they cannot find a new job, then ITEL is not correct in claiming that people are choosing to stay because of the highly risk-tolerant environment.

(D) Like choice (B), this choice is very likely true in the real world, but it does not address the specific question here: *why* ITEL claims it is able to retain its most valuable employees. As such, it cannot strengthen ITEL's claim that its high risk tolerance allows it to retain its employees.

(E) C O R R E C T .If intolerance toward risk is considered a significant detriment by employees in the industry, then having a higher risk-tolerance environment would be considered an advantage. This strengthens ITTEL's claim that its high risk-tolerance helps it to retain employees.

7.**(C)** .The exterminator explains the effects of using poisoned food to combat a mouse infestation: mice will pick up the food and carry it to the nest, where all of the mice will eat the food and die as a result. The exterminator then claims that *if X happens, then* it will be certain that Y happened first. Specifically, he claims that *if* all signs of the mice disappear for three consecutive weeks after setting out poisoned food, *then* the mice must have died as a result of that poisoned food. The correct answer will weaken this claim, for instance by showing that if X happens, it will not necessarily mean that Y happened; perhaps there is another reason why X happened.

(A) This choice is very tempting, but the exterminator argues that "all signs" of the mice "disappear"; this choice mentions only the difficulty of seeing and hearing mice. These do not represent "all signs" of an infestation; mice may leave droppings, chew things up, and so on. Further, the mice are not harder to see and hear only after poison has been used. They are always hard to see and hear, so this does not provide an alternate explanation as to why signs might diminish or disappear after poison has been used.

(B) This choice may be true, but it does not address the exterminator's claim that if all signs disappear, then the *poison* must have killed the mice.

(C) C O R R E C T .This choice offers an alternate explanation for the absence of signs of an infestation. If the mice have left the house, then any signs of infestation would also cease because the mice are no longer there. However, the signs will have ceased because the mice left voluntarily, not because they have been eradicated by the poison, as claimed by the exterminator.

(D) It is likely true that different poisons have different levels of efficacy, but this argument does not distinguish between types of poison. The claim is simply that the poison must have killed the mice (as opposed to some other explanation for why the signs of mice would disappear).

(E) This is another tempting choice; however, the exterminator does not claim that the poison will work within three weeks (or within any time frame at all). He only claims that *if the signs disappear* over three consecutive weeks, then that means that the poison worked. It might be the case that the signs don't disappear until weeks 3, 4, and 5, but the exterminator's claim would still hold: because the signs have disappeared for three consecutive weeks, the poison worked.

8.**(E)** .The question presents seemingly contradictory premises. On the one hand, ammonium triiodide is a powerful explosive that is easy to make from just two ingredients. On the other hand, apparently no terrorists have used this chemical in attacks. The correct answer will reconcile these premises by presenting a relevant, reasonable explanation for why terrorists have not used this explosive, despite its advantages. In other words, there must be a clear and serious obstacle preventing the use of this chemical.

(A) This answer choice does present an obstacle: one of the ingredients has limited availability. However, the obstacle is not described as serious. The ingredient can only be obtained from *somehow more restricted sources* than a grocery store. For example, *chemical supply houses* can provide the ingredient.

(B) Other explosives can be made from ammonia, but this fact does not satisfactorily explain why terrorists have not used this explosive.

(C) This answer choice presents another seeming obstacle: many terrorists are more focused on weapons of mass destruction than on these kinds of chemical explosives. However, this does not mean that *all* terrorists are more focused on weapons of mass destruction. Moreover, even terrorists who are more focused on more devastating weapons may still be interested enough in conventional explosives to use ammonium triiodide in some attack.

(D) Airport security devices may be calibrated to detect ammonium compounds, an obstacle to their use in attacks on planes or airports. But terrorists might still use such compounds in other sorts of attacks.

(E) CORRECT . Only this answer choice presents a clear and serious obstacle to the use of ammonium triiodide in terrorist attacks. Since the chemical is unstable when dry, terrorists are unlikely to use the chemical in attacks, since some part of it might dry out and cause an early explosion.

9. **(C)** The conclusion is that “if major industries increase their capital reserves, the employment rate will not decline in the future.” Why? Because major industry did not have capital reserves. The author assumes that having capital reserves is sufficient to prevent a decline in the employment rate. You are asked to cast doubt on the author’s claim .

(A) Whether the drop in employment was foreseen does not relate to the core of the argument, which is that capital reserves will prevent another decline in the employment rate.

(B) The fact that some major industries had appreciable capital reserves does not contradict the claim that an increase in these reserves would prevent a future drop in employment rates.

(C) CORRECT . The author neglects to take into account the fact that other factors, such as an increase in labor costs, could adversely affect the employment rate. For example, if the cost of labor becomes prohibitively expensive, even with increased reserves, the employment rate could decline.

(D) Legislation mandating a certain level of reserves does not contradict the claim that increased reserves would prevent a drop in employment rates.

(E) The fact that the employment rate was more severe this year than last does not contradict the claim that an increase in reserves would prevent a drop in the employment rate.

10. **(E)** The conclusion of the argument is that *new methods of math education in this country do a disservice to our children*. Why? Because math teachers emphasize *in higher grades the same narrow, skills-based approach that students learned in lower grades rather than the analytical tools they will need to solve complex math problems*. In order to weaken the conclusion, you need to show that this approach has not had a negative effect on children’s math skills.

(A) Music is used simply as an analogy in the argument. It is not central to the logic.

(B) The argument suggests that students are getting worse at advanced math skills due to new methods of teaching. This answer choice provides no basis for evaluating students’ math performance over time; you do not know how performing “no worse than” students from other countries compares with students’ performance prior to the introduction of the new teaching methods.

(C) The simple fact that older students arrive at different answers does not address the concerns of the argument: that students are not prepared for higher-level math.

(D) The fact that older students receive better grades in m ath does not address the concerns of the argum ent: that students are not prepared for higher-level m ath.

(E) C O R R E C T .This choice states that an increasing percentage of native first-year students qualify to take college courses requiring advanced m ath.This w ould seem to suggest that m ore children are prepared for advanced m ath than had previously been the case,thus w eakening the conclusion of the argum ent.

11.**(B)**.The first boldface sentence states that the fight against the drug trade in C ountry X should focus for the tim e being on tightening the country’s borders and targeting its m ajor sm ugglers.The second boldface sentence states that the U nited N ations and the governm ent of C ountry X should eventually replace the poppy fields w ith other farm ing ventures (“agricultural infrastructure”).Y ou need to find a choice that describes the relationship betw een these tw o sentences.

(A) This choice states that the first sentence is the conclusion and that the second sentence is an alternative to that conclusion.This m isrepresents the relationship.The first sentence is a shorter-term conclusion,and the second sentence is a longer-term conclusion of the argum ent.

(B) C O R R E C T .This choice states that the first sentence is a short-term solution to a problem and the second a long-term solution to the sam e problem .This accurately describes the relationship.The first sentence states that the fight should focus *for the tim e being* on borders and sm ugging w hile the second sentence states that the U nited N ations and the governm ent of C ountry X should w ork to replace the poppy crop w ith som ething else.

(C) This choice states that the first sentence presents a problem .A ccording to the text,how ever,the first sentence is not a problem but a solution to a problem .

(D) This choice states that the first sentence presents a popular solution to a problem .Since you have no w ay of know ing w hether the solution is popular,this cannot be correct.

(E) This choice states that the first sentence presents an argum ent,and that the second sentence provides evidence to support that argum ent.Though the first sentence does present an argum ent,the second sentence,rather than providing evidence,presents a second argum ent.

12.**(B)**.The conclusion is that a developer w ho w ishes to m ake a large profit w ould be w ise to buy urban w aterfront lots and erect residential buildings on them .The basis for that claim is that people pay large sum s for beach front hom es.Y ou are asked to strengthen this argum ent.

(A) This choice states that people have m ore buying pow er today than in previous centuries.This does not strengthen the claim that a developer w ill m ake m oney on urban w aterfront properties.

(B) C O R R E C T .This choice states that hom eow ners w ill be w illing to spend large sum s of m oney on residential properties in traditionally industrial or com m ercial districts.Since you know from the argum ent that urban w ater-fronts have traditionally been industrial,this fact strengthens the claim that a developer can m ake a profit on urban w aterfront properties.

(C) This choice states that m any urban w aterfront lots are available for purchase.This does not suggest,how ever,that a developer w ill be able to sell them after he or she builds on them .

(D) This choice states that many coastal cities are giving tax breaks to developers who rehabilitate the waterfront, but this does not suggest that anyone will buy the developed properties.

(E) This choice states that properties in the interior of cities are more expensive than those on the waterfront. Although waterfront properties are therefore cheaper to acquire, this does not necessarily mean that a developer can make a profit after buying such properties.

13.(D).The passage states that mentally ill people fare best when two conditions are met: (1) they are not confined to institutions, and (2) they receive high-quality outpatient care. When Congress allowed many mentally ill people to leave mental institutions, it ensured that condition (1) was met for those who were released. The passage does not tell you, however, whether Congress also ensured that condition (2) would be met. The plight of the mentally ill in 1983 would not be very surprising if those who had been released never received the high-quality outpatient care that they needed.

(A) An increase in the *number* of people diagnosed with psychiatric disorders does not explain why the average mentally ill person would be faring worse.

(B) The difference between outcomes for men and women is interesting, but without making additional assumptions, you cannot use this difference to explain the drop in average welfare for the mentally ill.

(C) The discovery of new medications does not explain why the mentally ill were doing worse in 1983; if anything, it makes their plight somewhat more surprising, since the new medications may have benefited some people with mental illness.

(D) CORRECT .This resolves the paradox by offering a plausible explanation of why the mentally ill were worse off in 1983. If Congress never supplied the funding that would have been necessary to provide high-quality outpatient care to the newly-released patients, those patients did not fulfill condition (2) for improved welfare in psychiatric patients.

(E) The specific diagnoses of those who fared worst in 1983 cannot resolve the paradox under consideration, since those individuals may well have had the same illnesses before they were released.

14.(A).The official's conclusion is that people who claim that the U S is more vulnerable than other nations because of the country's lack of a national vaccine laboratory are disloyal and incorrect. His basis for that conclusion is that the U S has generally long life span and low infant mortality relative to all U N countries. Moreover, he cites the high quality of American hospitals, and he adds that many people he knows from around the world come to the U S for medical care. You are asked to find the choice that does NOT point out a weakness or potential weakness in the official's argument.

(A) CORRECT .This choice states that the high quality of hospitals is *not* a factor affecting the public's vulnerability to infectious disease. However, the quality of hospitals very arguably does affect how vulnerable the public is to such disease.

(B) This choice highlights the official's logical jump from "disloyal" to "wrong" in the phrase *these critics are disloyal and thus wrong about the public's vulnerability*. There is no necessary connection between disloyalty and wrongness.

(C) If the Europeans that the official cited overwhelmingly consisted of wealthy men over the age of fifty, then the official relied on an unrepresentative sample to justify his claim. What is true of wealthy older European men is not necessarily true of Europeans or non-Americans generally.

(D) If the average life span of Americans is determined by causes other than infectious disease, then the official is not limiting his evidence to cases relating to vaccines. Other causes of death are not relevant to the critics' argument.

(E) The ranking of the United States relative to all UN countries is misleading, since it does not compare the US to other "advanced industrialized" or "developed" nations, as the critics' claim does.

15.(C).The conclusion of the argument is that renewable sources of energy, chiefly solar and wind, will be less risky for certain utilities than nonrenewable sources, such as oil and gas. The basis for this claim is that the renewable sources will provide stable, low-cost supplies of energy, whereas the prices for nonrenewable sources will fluctuate according to availability. You are asked to find an assumption underlying this argument. In order for this argument to be valid, it must in fact be true that these renewable sources of energy will provide stable, low-cost supplies.

(A) The utility companies' claim has to do with the supply risk of the new energy sources, not with how these sources are received by the public.

(B) If no new supplies of traditional energy sources are found, then it is true that perhaps these nonrenewable supplies will continue to fluctuate in price in a risky manner. However, the argument does not depend upon any assumption about the future discovery of oil and gas supplies.

(C) CORRECT .If you assume that weather patterns are consistent and predictable, then with the stated premises, you can conclude that solar and wind power will be less risky than oil and gas. If, on the other hand, weather patterns are not consistent and predictable, then solar and wind power are not reliable and thus will not provide *stable energy supplies at low cost*. Thus, the argument's conclusion directly depends on this assumption.

(D) To reach the required conclusion, it is not necessary to assume that the conversion technology for new sources is not more expensive than the present technology.

(E) This choice does not directly affect the argument. Whether or not energy produced through combustion can be made less risky, the new energy sources might still be less risky than the older sources.

16.(D).The conclusion of the argument is that one need not worry about ingesting pesticides when purchasing produce from farms that use only organic pesticides. The basis for that claim is the fact that organic pesticides leave the surface of produce within a few hours of spraying. In order for this argument to be valid, you must assume that the organic pesticides do not harm the produce in any lasting way.

(A) This is unrelated to the argument, since the conclusion speaks about not having to worry about ingesting produce on which only organic pesticides were known to be used.

(B) If anything, this statement runs counter to what the argument is saying. If produce that has been sprayed with organic pesticide reaches the final consumer within hours after it is picked, it is possible that the consumer *does* need be concerned about the pesticides.

(C) The conclusion of the argument is already limited to those farms which use "only organic pesticides."

(D) CORRECT. If a pesticide is capable of penetrating the skin of a fruit or vegetable then, while the organic pesticide will dissipate from the surface of the fruit in a few hours, it may remain inside the fruit. The author of this argument assumes that the pesticides cannot penetrate the skin.

(E) The issue of cost is unrelated to the argument's conclusion about pesticide residues.

17. **(E)**. The conclusion of the argument is that the government should educate the public about the dangers of inactivity and poor diet in order to stop the spread of type-2 diabetes. The basis for the claim is that inactivity and poor diet are the main factors in developing type-2 diabetes. You are asked to find a choice that will show that this plan likely will not work.

(A) The fact that schools educate middle school students about a disease that is generally "acquired in adulthood" does not address the effectiveness of an adult education plan sponsored by the government.

(B) The fact that the public already has access to this information through the Internet, does not say anything predictive about the effectiveness of the plan. Even with access to the information, there is a good chance that most people are not exposed to the information.

(C) Just because food companies encourage the public to indulge in unhealthy snacks, does not mean that a program that teaches them to do otherwise would not be successful.

(D) The fact that the government has not set aside money for such a program, does not say much about the projected program's effectiveness.

(E) CORRECT. The choice states that *healthful foods and exercise programs are beyond the financial means of many people*. This suggests that even with the best planning, the program might not achieve its goals simply because people cannot afford to follow the program's advice.

18. **(D)**. The argument focuses on the relative cost of goods and services in countries X and Y due to an exchange rate that has historically favored the currency of country Y. The argument presents an apparent discrepancy: the citizens of country Y often take their vacations in country X, yet rarely purchase clothing or electronics in country X, despite the fact that those items are more expensive in their home country, even when sales taxes are taken into account. The correct answer will be one that indicates some reason why it might not actually be cheaper for citizens of country Y to purchase clothing and electronics in country X.

(A) The fashion preferences of the citizens of country Y do not directly explain their buying habits. To be relevant, this statement would have to go further to link fashion preferences to purchasing decisions: for example, it would have to continue ... *and are therefore willing to pay more for the goods available in their own country*.

(B) The fact that stores in country Y receive the latest fashions and technology earlier than stores in country X does not address the buying habits of the citizens. Even if you could assume that the citizens of country Y demand the latest goods as soon as they are available, it still would not directly explain their buying habits. To be relevant, this statement would have to go further to link consumer preferences to purchasing decisions: for example, it would have to continue ... *and the citizens of country Y are willing to pay more in their own country just to acquire the latest goods as soon as they are available*.

(C) The attitude of the citizens of C ountry X is irrelevant to an argum ent about the purchasing habits of the citizens of C ountry Y .

(D) C O R R E C T . This choice states that the governm ent of C ountry Y im poses tariffs on im ported goods. This suggests that perhaps item s that are purchased in C ountry X and brought into C ountry Y becom e prohibitively expensive because of the tariffs and could explain the spending habits of the citizens of C ountry Y .

(E) The currency of C ountry Z is irrelevant to w hy citizens of C ountry Y rarely purchase clothing or electronics in C ountry X .

19.**(A)**. The basic structure of this argum ent is fact that *m old is alm ost alw ays found in places w here there is substantial m oisture*, so therefore, to avoid m old and the resultant m old poisoning, then people should take steps to prevent w et areas. This argum ent assum es that w et areas occur first, causing m old to grow . C onversely, this assum ption requires that the m old grow th itself does not occur first, creating w et areas as a result.

(A) C O R R E C T . The argum ent depends on the assum ption that the reason m old and w etness are observed together is that w et areas cause m old grow th. If the reverse causation (m old causes w etness) w ere true, then keeping all plum bing in good condition to prevent leakage w ould do little to prevent the grow th of m old. This choice elim inates the alternate causation.

(B) If m ost hom eow ners knew enough about plum bing to determ ine w hether theirs is in good condition, then the recom m endation m ade in this argum ent w ould be m ore useful. H ow ever, this is not an assum ption on w hich the argum ent depends.

(C) Even if m old could grow in dry areas, the fact that m old is alm ost alw ays found in w et areas is still valid. This is the fact upon w hich the argum ent is based, so the argum ent does not depend on the unnecessarily absolute assertion that m old cannot grow in dry areas.

(D) Even if som e varieties of m old are harm less, the conclusion of this argum ent, that *one should m ake sure to keep all internal plum bing in good condition to prevent leakage* and m inim ize m old grow th, could still be valid. Therefore, this argum ent does not depend on the unnecessarily absolute assertion that no varieties of m old are harm less.

(E) W hether m old spores can be filtered from the air m ay be relevant to a conclusion about the health effects of m old in the hom e, but it is not directly relevant to this conclusion, that *one should m ake sure to keep all internal plum bing in good condition to prevent leakage* and m inim ize m old grow th.

20.**(D)**. This argum ent discusses a plan w ith the stated goal “to prevent overcrow ding.” Tw o points of view are represented in the argum ent: one is that of the tow n zoning board, the originators of the plan, and the other is that of critics of the plan. The question asks for inform ation that w ould m ost support the claim s of the critics of the plan. C onversely, the correct answ er w ould m ost w eaken the logic of the tow n zoning board.

(A) H ow other tow ns fared under sim ilar zoning plans is irrelevant to this argum ent, unless additional inform ation w ere presented to connect the situation of this tow n to those. Y ou have no such connecting inform ation, so this choice neither strengthens nor w eakens either point of view .

(B) H ow long it has been since the construction of the last school in tow n is irrelevant to this argum ent. The argum ent

addresses methods to prevent overcrowding, an issue that is not directly related to school construction.

(C) The argument never mentions property taxes, so how property taxes in this town compare to those in neighboring towns is irrelevant.

(D) CORRECT. The argument states that *the town zoning board limited the number of new buildings that can be constructed in the town in any given year*. The goal of this plan is to prevent overcrowding, but only does so indirectly: the town zoning board plan limits the number of new buildings, not the number of new town residents. Either an apartment building or a single family house would only count as one new building, yet the apartment building could draw many more new residents to the town than would the single family house. This plan might not be the best way to achieve the stated goal, and thus this statement supports the claims of the critics of the plan.

(E) The distance to the nearest garbage dump is irrelevant to an argument about how to prevent overcrowding.

21. **(C).** The conclusion of the argument is that *the retail price of chocolate is certain to increase within six months*. This claim is based on the fact that the wholesale price of cocoa solids and cocoa butter has increased significantly and is likely to stay high. The argument assumes that the retail price of chocolate is driven by the wholesale price of cocoa, and ignores the cost of the other ingredients in chocolate. To evaluate the conclusion of the argument, it is necessary to examine whether this assumption is valid.

(A) The price of cocoa solids and cocoa butter during other periods of poor harvest is irrelevant. There is no guarantee that the market for chocolate would respond the same way in this case.

(B) The willingness of consumers to spend more for chocolate is irrelevant when evaluating whether chocolate will be more expensive due to a shortage of cocoa beans.

(C) CORRECT. If the price of other ingredients in the chocolate has dropped, then the decrease could offset the higher price of cocoa, and the retail price of chocolate could remain steady.

(D) The percentage of cacao trees affected by the fungus is irrelevant. Regardless of the percentage, it would not change the fact stated by the argument that *there was an unusually meager harvest of cocoa beans this year*.

(E) It may seem useful to determine whether the fungus can be eliminated within the next six months. However, the conclusion was not about the fungus or the cacao crop, but rather the retail price of chocolate. The time frame for the elimination of the fungus would only be relevant to the short-term retail price of chocolate if you make several additional assumptions: that the harvest immediately increases, and that the resulting glut of cocoa beans immediately offsets the *unusually meager harvest of cocoa beans this year*, and that the wholesale price of cocoa immediately drops to its pre-fungus level, and that the retail price would not be affected in the meantime. You cannot make all of these assumptions, so the answer to this question is irrelevant to the conclusion.

22. **(A).** The head of engineering has concluded that the one-time doubling of costs for the raw material caused the steady decline, over two years, of profit margins. The engineer's conclusion rests on the assumption that there is a connection between the one-time raw material price increase and the two-year steady decline in profit margins. Alternatively, something else could have caused either a steady two-year decline in revenues or a steady two-year increase in costs; if so, this event is more likely to be the cause of a steady decline in profit margins over the same two-year period. As a result, this would weaken the engineer's conclusion that finding a new source for the raw material will improve profit margins.

(A) C O R R E C T . New competitors have caused a steady two-year decline in revenues. This weakens the engineer's contention that the one-time doubling of costs for the raw material is the cause of the steady two-year decline in profit margins.

(B) The fact that the region's mines are producing less than they did before the earthquake does not indicate anything about the cost of the raw material; it would be necessary to show that cost is not reduced in order to weaken the engineer's conclusion.

(C) The amount of raw material produced by other regions does not indicate anything about the cost of the raw material; it would be necessary to show that cost is not reduced in order to weaken the engineer's conclusion.

(D) The use of a different raw material does not indicate anything about the cost of that raw material; it would be necessary to show that cost is not reduced in order to weaken the engineer's conclusion.

(E) Although *mining* the raw material may become more cost-effective for the mine (that is, cheaper), this does not tell you what will happen to the *price* they charge for the material when selling to the company producing the product in question. It would be necessary to show that the company's cost is not reduced in order to weaken the engineer's conclusion.

23. **(E)**. The argument concludes that children are more likely to attend college if they are sent to private high schools instead of public high schools. The basis for this claim is the higher percentage of graduates of private schools pursuing college education. It is assumed that public schools are inferior to private schools as a training ground for college. Any statement that provides an alternate explanation for the fact that public school graduates attend college at lower rates than private school graduates would weaken the argument. Another way to interpret this question involves the concepts of correlation and causation. The argument's premise states that private school attendance (versus public school attendance) is highly correlated with college attendance. The conclusion of the argument is essentially that private school attendance **C A U S E S** college attendance (and therefore, parents ought to send their children to private schools to ensure eventual college attendance). This conclusion depends on the assumption that the causation does

N O T work the other way — in other words, that "readiness or desire to attend college" does not influence the choice of public or private school. Any evidence that readiness or desire to attend college **D O E S** influence the choice of public or private school will weaken the argument.

(A) While higher test scores might increase students' chances of admission to college, they are unrelated to whether students will actually attend college. Even if one could prove that earning higher test scores makes a student more likely to attend college, this statement would not weaken the argument, but rather strengthen it.

(B) Since the conclusion centers on the likelihood of attending college, economic and financial considerations are outside the scope of the argument.

(C) Since the amount of need-based aid is not directly related to whether a student will attend college, this statement is outside the scope of the argument.

(D) While better athletic opportunities could increase students' chances of admission to college, they are unrelated to whether students will actually attend college. Also, even though the advantages of public school mentioned in this statement were taken into account by the study, the proportion of graduates of public schools attending colleges remains substantially lower than the proportion of graduates of private schools.

(E) C O R R E C T . This answer choice demonstrates that the difference in the percentage of graduates attending

colleges stem s not from any advantage provided by private schools but from the fact that a subset of the graduates of public high schools simply choose to pursue a different career path. In other words, 30% of the graduates of public schools voluntarily choose not to pursue a college education. Yet 65% out of the 70% of graduates remaining end up in colleges. This statement indicates extremely high college matriculation rates for students who want to attend college after graduation from public high schools. Using the concepts of correlation and causation, this answer choice provides the alternative causation for the correlation observed. In other words, “desire to attend college” is *already* lower in the rural areas where public schools happen to be located. According to this evidence, attendance at private or public school is the effect, not the cause, of “desire to attend college.”

24. **(A)**. Only two pieces of information are given about Airline A’s standing room “seats” proposal. First, that it is geared toward increasing revenue in order to counteract declining profits. And second, that, since the proposal relates to passenger safety, it must be approved by the Federal Aviation Administration. Airline A must have concluded that the cost of implementation of its proposal is less than the revenue that the new seats will generate.

(A) CORRECT. Since Airline A knows that its proposal would have to comply with safety standards, it must have concluded that the cost of compliance is worth it. In other words, the only way for Airline A to achieve its goal of increasing profit is to implement ideas that will generate more revenue than they cost. Airline A must therefore have concluded that the standing room only “seats” meet this criteria.

(B) The statements in the passage imply nothing about whether Airline A believes that the Federal Aviation Administration will approve the proposal. Although Airline A must believe that the proposal has a chance of being approved (otherwise it’s unlikely to have proposed it), the airline might have proposed its specific plan knowing that it might not be approved or, that it might have to be changed in certain ways.

(C) Airline A’s goal is simply to “counteract declining profits” caused by the high cost of jet fuel. This does not mean, however, that the proposal must fully mitigate the cost of jet fuel. As long as the proposal increases revenue without a corollary increase in cost, it will in some way (even if it’s relatively small) counteract declining profits.

(D) The passage does not mention any other ways that Airline A has considered increasing revenue. Therefore, it is impossible to conclude anything about Airline A’s perception of its standing room “seats” proposal to any other ideas.

(E) The statements in the passage do not address Airline A’s view regarding the safety of the standing room only “seats.” It is very possible that Airline A views its proposal as safe and sees no conflict between passenger safety and increasing revenue, much less that it has made any determination about the relative importance of these two issues.

25. **(D)**. The letter writer believes that if criminal penalties for drug use are eliminated, the incidence of armed robbery and other violent crimes will decrease. In support of that belief, the letter writer offers the second boldface portion of the argument: an assertion that crimes are committed by drug users because they need money to buy expensive illegal drugs, and that if drugs were legal and therefore cheaper, the crimes would become unnecessary. The first boldface portion of the argument mentions an observed relationship between drug use and other crimes: when drug use declines, other crimes decline as well. This observation is counter to the letter writer’s ultimate claim.

(A) The letter writer forecasts that violent crime will decline even if drug use is decriminalized. The first boldface portion does not offer support for that forecast, but rather evidence that violent crime decreases when anti-drug laws are enforced. The second boldface portion is not the letter writer’s forecast, but rather the support given for it.

(B) The first boldface portion is an observation that violent crime decreases when anti-drug laws are enforced; that observation weighs against the letter writer’s main position, but falls short of refuting his claim that violent crime will

decrease as a result of decriminalizing drug use. The second boldface portion is support for the letter writer's main position, not the position itself.

(C) The first boldface portion shows a direct relationship between a decline in drug activity and a decline in violent crime, but the letter writer does not argue that future events are predicted by this relationship. In fact, the letter writer ultimately claims the opposite: that violent crime will decrease when criminal penalties for drug use are eliminated, even if drug use increases as a result.

(D) CORRECT. The first boldface portion shows a direct relationship between a decline in drug activity and a decline in violent crime, but the letter writer claims that violent crime will decrease when criminal penalties for drug use are eliminated, even if drug use increases as a result. If true, the information in the second boldface section explains why the letter writer makes the claim that the high cost of illegal drugs is the reason drug users commit violent crimes, so cheaper, legalized drugs will cause crime to decline.

(E) The first boldface portion is presented by the letter writer as true. However, the second boldface is not an inference drawn from the first boldface portion; rather, it contradicts the first boldface portion.

26. **(B)** Although the premises of this argument suggest only a correlation between smoking and anxiety or nervousness, the argument has a causal conclusion: it concludes that smoking causes individuals to be anxious and nervous (i.e., that A causes B). Any assumption in a causal argument must support the causal "direction" of the conclusion, that A causes B as opposed to some other explanation. Often, assumptions support a causal conclusion either by eliminating an alternate cause for the conclusion (that C did not cause B) or by demonstrating that the causation, if one exists, is in the proper direction (that B did not cause A).

(A) The argument concludes that smoking causes anxiety and nervousness. Whether these maladies lead to more serious health problems is not relevant to the conclusion.

(B) CORRECT. For smoking to be the cause of anxiety and nervousness (A caused B) it must be true that these individuals were not more likely to be anxious and nervous before they started smoking. If smokers had these preconditions, which contributed to their decision to begin smoking (B caused A), your conclusion — that smoking causes these maladies — would be incorrect.

(C) The argument concludes that smoking causes anxiety and nervousness. The number of survey respondents is not relevant to the conclusion.

(D) The argument concludes that smoking causes anxiety and nervousness. The awareness of the health problems related to smoking is not relevant to the conclusion.

(E) The argument is not based on the immediate impact that smoking has on anxiety and nervousness. Moreover, the argument never compares some smokers to other smokers.

27. **(D)** Because of the speculation that the tuberculosis outbreak in Country X was the result of an outbreak of tuberculosis in Country Y, health officials in Country X have proposed requiring all visitors from Country Y to undergo a medical examination. You are asked to find a choice that suggests that this proposal will not have the desired effect of curbing the spread of tuberculosis in Country X.

(A) This has no bearing on the situation between Country X and Country Y.

(B) This suggests only that the proposal would not prevent ALL cases. But even if the proposal does not prevent all cases, it could help prevent many.

(C) This suggests only that the proposal would not catch ALL carriers of the disease from Country Y. But even if the proposal does not prevent all cases, it could help prevent many.

(D) CORRECT . This suggests that the visitors from Country Y are not the source of the disease. Thus, testing them would likely do little to curb the spread of the disease.

(E) This does not suggest that the proposal will not help curb the spread of the disease. If the visitors from Country Y are indeed carriers, then their refusal to visit Country X will help curb the disease.

28. **(D)** . The argument concerns the economic impact on restaurants in Prohibitionland if the service of alcoholic beverages is banned. It presents evidence that, despite restrictions on the service of alcohol in certain areas of Prohibitionland, sales taxes in restaurants in those areas rose at a higher rate than for those in other parts of Prohibitionland, suggesting that the ban would not have any adverse economic impact. You are asked to support the restaurant proprietors' claim, so the correct answer choice will call the relevance of the seemingly contradictory evidence into question.

(A). This answer choice may seem to strengthen the argument that banning the service of alcoholic beverages would have an adverse impact on restaurants. However, as the evidence involves data for the entire year, citing a short-term negative impact on restaurant visitation at the beginning of the year does not measurably strengthen the argument.

(B) The relative tax rate on food and beverages as compared to other consumer goods is irrelevant here.

(C) A gradual decline in alcohol consumption over the past 20 years would suggest that over time, any ban on alcohol would have an increasingly small impact on restaurant visitation, weakening the proprietors' argument.

(D) CORRECT . This statement calls the evidence into question by indicating that any measured increase in sales taxes and, presumably, revenues for restaurants that have been operating under the restrictions last year enacted is irrelevant, as the restrictions could be argued to be completely different than the total ban that is being proposed. This answer choice substantially strengthens the proprietors' argument by threatening to make the cited evidence irrelevant.

(E) The fact that overall sales tax revenue did not increase at a higher rate in the provinces that enacted the restrictions on alcoholic beverages weakens the proprietors' argument, as it makes the cited evidence more compelling by ruling out the possibility of different growth rates in the different areas.

29. **(A)** . The passage concludes that the whereabouts of most of the world's most valuable artwork is probably unknown. The basis for this claim is that serious art collectors are discreet when purchasing or selling significant pieces of art. To weaken this claim, one would need information that demonstrated that serious art collectors, while discreet in purchasing and selling their artwork, were relatively open with their art once it was in their possession.

Alternatively, one could weaken this claim using information that showed that serious art collectors possessed only a small fraction of the world's most valuable art. The question asks you to find an answer choice that does NOT weaken the conclusion.

(A) C O R R E C T . The fact that the value of a piece of art is subjective is irrelevant to the reasoning of the argument. It does not present any information that would weaken the link drawn between the whereabouts of valuable artwork and the fact that serious art collectors are discreet when purchasing or selling such artwork. Thus, this choice does NOT weaken the conclusion.

(B) The fact that serious art collectors publicize their art shortly after purchasing it means that the whereabouts of their valuable art must be widely known. This choice makes clear that serious art collectors are discreet only in purchasing and selling their artwork, and that the whereabouts of newly purchased artwork is unknown, if at all, for only a short period of time. As such, this choice weakens the conclusion.

(C) If museums own the vast majority of the world's valuable artwork, then the practices of serious individual art collectors are essentially irrelevant to the location of most of the world's valuable artwork. Therefore, this choice weakens the conclusion since the public nature of museums means that the whereabouts of most of the world's valuable work is widely known.

(D) Since the majority of the world's valuable privately held artwork is owned by individuals who are not considered serious collectors, then the practices of serious art collectors are essentially irrelevant to the location of most of the world's valuable artwork. This choice weakens the conclusion by removing the link between serious art collectors and most of the world's valuable artwork.

(E) The fact that the collections of most serious art collectors are often displayed in public settings means that the whereabouts of their valuable art must be widely known. This choice makes clear that serious art collectors are discreet only in purchasing and selling their artwork, but that once in their possession, the artwork is typically unveiled for the public. Therefore, this choice weakens the conclusion.

30. **(A)** The argument explains that the new "Click It or Ticket" law is generating controversy. Under the new law, drivers can be cited for not wearing their seat belts, even in the absence of an additional driving infraction. A ny acceptable inference must be directly supported by evidence from the text.

(A) C O R R E C T . The entire controversy is based on the new law that allows motorists to be cited, even in the absence of an additional infraction. Thus, it follows that prior to the passage of this law, an additional driving infraction must have been necessary in order to stop and cite an individual for not wearing a seat belt.

(B) Search and seizure laws are never mentioned in the text. This answer choice is outside the scope of the argument.

(C) Laws in other states are never mentioned in the text. This answer choice is outside the scope of the argument.

(D) Though the text states that the new regulation might save countless additional lives, the effectiveness of the previous laws are never mentioned.

(E) No preference is stated between law enforcement groups and the citizens' groups. This answer choice is simply an opinion that is unsubstantiated by the text.

31. **(E)** The passage provides some specific information about the effects of calorie restriction. In rats and mice, this diet is known to prolong life by preventing diseases. In a study of moderately overweight humans, insulin levels and body temperature decreased. A proper GRE inference will be based on the specific information provided, without relying on any significant assumptions.

(A) The passage states that calorie restriction in mice and rats prolongs life by preventing diseases. The human study had much more limited findings — that calorie restriction in moderately overweight humans decreases insulin levels and body temperature. While these traits are known to be associated with longevity, there are no data that link calorie restriction itself to prolonged human life. Additionally, calorie restriction may have other unstated effects, unrelated to longevity. There is no information in the passage that indicates whether these effects are the same in humans as in mice and rats. Finally, the use of the term *humans* is far too general; the study dealt only with moderately overweight humans and so any inference would need to be restricted to this subset of individuals.

(B) While the passage indicates that certain traits known to be associated with longevity are found in moderately overweight humans who reduce their calorie intake, this is far removed from the conclusion that calorie intake will actually increase a human's lifespan. Additionally, as with answer choice (A), the use of the term *humans* is far too general.

(C) The study observed that individuals with the greatest percentage decrease in their calorie intake demonstrated the greatest decrease in insulin levels and body temperature. This shows a strong correlation between calorie intake and insulin levels. However, this correlation is not necessarily direct. It is possible that this correlation holds, but only up to a point. For example, it might be the case that any reduction in calorie intake over 50 percent does not result in any additional insulin level decreases. Moreover, the passage only draws this correlation for individuals with the greatest percent decrease in calorie intake. It is very possible that individuals with a relatively low decrease in calorie intake exhibit the exact same decrease in insulin levels as individuals with a moderate decrease in calorie intake.

(D) The study makes no reference to the health of individuals who reduce their calorie intake. It tries to draw some connection to the longevity of those individuals, but longevity is not the same as health. An individual could live a very long, unhealthy life.

(E) CORRECT . The passage states that the greatest decrease in insulin levels was observed in individuals with the greatest percentage change in their calorie intake. This means that some individuals in the study reduced their calorie intake by a greater percentage than other individuals in the study. The passage also states that the study participants reduced their individual calorie intakes by *at least 25 percent*. Thus, one can safely infer that there were some participants who reduced their calorie intake by more than 25 percent.

32. **(D)** . The argument explains that school officials plan to limit the sugar intake of students in school by replacing sugary drinks with less sugary drinks in school vending machines. To undermine this plan, the correct answer must demonstrate that the consumption of sugar by students will not be dramatically reduced.

(A) A comparison between unsweetened fruit juices and bottled water is not relevant, as these are both less sugary alternatives to the high-calorie sugary drinks.

(B) The intention of the school officials' plan is to limit the intake of sugar by students. Access to sugary drinks outside of school is certainly a factor in students' total sugar intake. However, the possibility that students might consume sugar elsewhere fails to undermine the school officials' plan to restrict access to sugary drinks at school. As a result of the restricted access during school hours, those students who have access to sugary drinks outside of school may still consume less sugar than they otherwise would.

(C) The fact that certain alternatives to the sugary drinks contain ingredients that cause health concerns is irrelevant to the argument. Students would still be consuming less sugar.

(D) CORRECT. If most of the sugar that students consume in school comes from snack foods rather than drinks, replacing the drinks with healthier alternatives will do little to curb the intake of sugar.

(E) This statistic is not directly relevant to the argument, since it is unclear whether these drinks are consumed at school. If the drinks were consumed at school, this answer choice would strengthen rather than undermine the school officials' plan.

33. **(D)**. Research indicates that there is a connection between being married and being happy and healthy. Media commentators have concluded that marriage causes happiness and health. However, one could reasonably conclude from the research that the cause and effect are the reverse: being happy and healthy makes a person more likely to get married.

(A) The research compared married people to unmarried people. Neither the researchers nor the media commentators made any distinction between newlyweds and those who had been married a long time, so this assumption is not necessary.

(B) The type of wedding is outside the scope of this argument. The research compared married people to unmarried people, but made no distinction based upon the type of wedding.

(C) At first, this statement may seem necessary—after all, if the commentators conclude that marriage causes happiness, a lack of depression in married people would certainly support that conclusion. However, the statement is too extreme. One depressed married person does not invalidate the research indicating that, on average, married people are healthier and happier than non-married people.

(D) CORRECT. This statement eliminates the alternative interpretation of the research findings—that being happy and healthy makes a person more likely to get married.

(E) The research compared married people to unmarried people. Neither the researchers nor the media commentators made any distinction between harmful marriages and com bative marriages, so this assumption is not necessary.

34. **(D)**. The question asks you to analyze the structure of the argument. Specifically, it asks you to determine the relationship of the two bolded sentences to the argument as a whole. To do this effectively, you need first to determine the conclusion of the argument. In this case, the conclusion is the final sentence, which follows from the evidence presented in the rest of the argument. So you know that the correct answer cannot describe either bolded portion as the author's final conclusion. The first bolded portion is presented as an earlier, erroneous belief. In evaluating the answer choices, you should look to eliminate any that suggest the author agrees with this first statement. The second bolded statement shows that the earlier theory—that lactic acid causes soreness—was incorrect, and thus also provides evidence in support of the author's conclusion. So you know that the correct answer must describe the second bolded portion as supporting the conclusion. The correct answer must describe both portions correctly, not just one or the other.

(A) This choice misrepresents the first bolded portion by claiming that the author accepts it as true, when the author actually presents it as an incorrect, outdated belief. The second portion is also incorrect because it indicates that the second bolded portion supports the first one.

(B) This choice also misrepresents the first portion, for the reason described above. It corrects the second bolded portion, however, by describing it as contradictory to the first portion.

(C) The first portion is correctly described as an assertion that the author does not believe to be true.Y et the second portion is incorrectly described as going against the author's final conclusion.

(D) C O R R E C T .This choice correctly represents the first portion by saying the author believes it is no longer valid. The second portion is correctly described as evidence in support of the author's conclusion.

(E) The first portion is correctly described as evidence considered by the author to be invalid.H ow ever,this choice m isrepresents the second portion as the conclusion,w hen it is actually evidence given in support of the conclusion.

35.**(B)**.The conclusion of the argum ent is contained in the last sentence,that *the m ethods that the prospector had used to determ ine the size of the oil deposit m ust have been inaccurate*.The evidence provided is that the prospector reported a large oil deposit that w as later determ ined to be m uch sm aller in size.Y ou are asked to find an unstated assum ption that m akes the conclusion valid based upon this evidence.In order to do this,you need to assum e that there is not another reason w hy the prospector m ight have reported a larger oil deposit than actually existed.

(A) It is not necessary to the conclusion that a third party affirm ed the com pany's determ ination that the oil deposit turned out to be sm all.The conclusion accepts that the oil deposit w as indeed sm aller than indicated by the prospector,and focuses on the cause of the discrepancy as opposed to the discrepancy itself.

(B) C O R R E C T .The argum ent concludes that the prospector's m ethods resulted in inaccurate m easurem ents of the size of the oil deposit.This assum es that the prospector did not sim ply m isreport or m isrepresent the m easurem ents, presum ably for personal gain.This answ er choice addresses the m ost plausible alternative explanation to the one given,and is necessary for the conclusion to stand based upon the evidence presented.

(C) The com m ercial feasibility or profitability of the oil deposit is not integral to the argum ent,or its conclusion. This statem ent is not an assum ption that w ould support the conclusion.

(D) W hether or not the prospector utilized the sam e m ethods in regards to m easuring the oil deposits in other locations is not relevant to the argum ent,or the conclusion.

(E) The fact that the com pany had a long operating history and experience in drilling oil w ells is not relevant,in that the com pany's m easurem ents of the size of the oil field are accepted as given in the argum ent.

36.**(C)**.This passage relates inform ation from tw o studies concerning high school seniors: the first discusses the financial responsibilities of high school seniors,w hile the second explains the coursew ork in finance taken by typical high school seniors.O n the G R E,a proper response to a draw -a-conclusion question m ust be directly supported by evidence from the passage.

(A) A lthough it m ight be true that schools w ould be w ise to educate students in finance,this is an opinion;it doesn't necessarily need to follow from the given evidence.A conclusion m ust be directly supported by evidence from the passage w ithout any additional inform ation or assum ptions.

(B) The fact that one-third of high school seniors claim *significant financial responsibilities* to their fam ilies does not necessarily m ean that these sam e students w ork *part-tim e jobs after school*.There are m any possible w ays that these students m ight earn m oney for their fam ilies.If they do w ork,they m ight w ork on w eekends or over the sum m er,for exam ple.

(C) C O R R E C T . The first study states that one-third of all high school seniors have significant financial responsibilities to their families. The second study states that 80% of seniors have opened a bank account, and of this 80% ,one-third has bounced a check. The number of seniors that has bounced a check (one-third of 80%) is fewer than the number of seniors with significant financial responsibilities to their families (one-third of 100%).

(D) The passage states that certain high school seniors who contribute to the food, shelter, or clothing for themselves or their families *rate themselves* as having significant financial responsibilities. This does not mean that any high school senior who contributes to these categories has significant financial responsibilities.

(E) The passage states that one-third of high school seniors say that they have *significant financial responsibilities*. This in no way indicates that the other two-thirds have “no” responsibilities. Because no information is given about the other two-thirds of the students, a reasoned conclusion cannot be drawn about them .

37.**(E)** .According to the statements, the companies that own private aircraft for business use are fully in compliance with the relevant law , which is summarized. A correct inference will be a statement that must follow from at least part of the premises given.

(A) It does not have to be true that the law costs the businesses money, as no evidence about the relative costs is given

(B) This choice is an irrelevant comparison, as the preferences of the executives are not the concern of the statements.

(C) This choice does not have to follow , as there is no information given about the travel arrangements made by large companies. The statements only indicate that the majority of private planes are not owned by large companies.

(D) There is no information given about the travel arrangements of upper level executives and no reason to believe that those with the companies discussed do not comply with their companies’ policies.

(E) C O R R E C T . If, as the statements indicate, the companies are in full compliance with this law , it must be true that the executives following their guidelines also are.

38.**(E)** .The conclusion of the argument is that insurance companies do not have a significant economic incentive to delay claim payments to doctors. To weaken this conclusion, an answer choice must provide some significant economic incentive for insurance companies to be tardy in paying doctors for legitimate medical claims .

(A) While the fact that some doctors who submit accurate bills to insurance companies still receive tardy payments seems to indicate that there must be something other than errors causing delayed payments, it fails to prove that the insurance company has an economic incentive to deliberately delay claim payments to doctors. For example, this fact could simply indicate that the insurance companies are inefficient at handling all of their paperwork.

(B) This choice compares costs insurance companies must absorb due to incorrect bills to costs physicians must absorb due to tardy payments. However, this information is irrelevant to establishing an economic incentive for insurance companies to delay claim payments to doctors.

(C) The argument is focused on the payment of legitimate claims; the rising proportion of illegitimate claims does not establish a clear economic incentive for insurance companies to delay payments of legitimate claims .

(D) The types of billing errors made by doctors' offices does not establish any economic motive for insurance companies to make a practice of delaying payments to doctors.

(E) CORRECT .This choice articulates a logical chain that establishes a clear economic motive for insurance companies to be tardy in paying doctors for legitimate medical claims.If insurance companies delay payments to doctors,this results in a 10 percent increase in overhead costs for physicians.These costs ultimately result in higher fees that doctors charge to insurance companies.Insurance companies,in turn,raise the premiums they charge consumers for health coverage.This choice states that the insurance companies increase their fees to consumers far more than the doctors increase their fees to insurance companies,enabling the insurance companies to pocket the difference;therein lies the economic motive for insurance companies to be tardy in paying doctors for legitimate medical claims.

39.**(D)**.Farmers in developing countries claim that the global price of wheat is low because American farmers produce too much of the grain.They also claim that American farmers produce too much wheat because they have no incentive to manage their crops,since the U S government will buy whatever wheat American farmers cannot sell on the open market.You are asked to find a choice that weakens the claims of the farmers in developing countries that removing the American subsidy would cause the price of wheat to rise.

(A) That there are uses for wheat that is not eaten is irrelevant here.This does not address any aspect of the farmers' claims.

(B) The fact that buyers of wheat can predict their needs in advance is irrelevant here,because the text indicates that American farmers do not pay attention to actual demand for wheat.

(C) In this argument,the global market for soybeans is irrelevant to the global market for wheat,which is a different commodity with different demand,supply,and pricing structures.

(D) CORRECT .The farmers assume that the sole cause of the wheat surplus is the United States.This answer choice suggests that other countries would modify their output to counterbalance any reduction on the part of the United States,keeping prices constant instead of allowing them to rise.

(E) The price of another crop is largely irrelevant.Moreover,the fact that the price of sorghum ,a non-subsidized crop,is lower tends to support,rather than weaken,the claims of the farmers.

40.**(E)**.The researchers claim that Delta-32 prevents its carriers from contracting the plague.They support this claim by noting that a strikingly large percentage of descendants of plague survivors carry the mutation.You are asked to find an assumption underlying the claim .

(A) The argument is specific to the relationship between Delta-32 and resistance to the plague.Other diseases are irrelevant.

(B) A gain,the argument is specific to the relationship between Delta-32 and resistance to the plague.Other diseases are irrelevant.

(C) Delta-32 may have existed in its current form before the 16th century and the merit of the argument would not change.

(D) The argument does not claim that Delta-32 prevents all bacteria-caused disease.

(E) CORRECT .The researchers claim that Delta-32 prevented its carriers from contracting the plague on the basis of its presence in descendants of plague survivors. But it is theoretically possible that these descendants carry the mutation Delta-32 because the plague mutated the genes of their ancestors. In order to claim that the mutation prevented the plague, you must assume that the plague did not cause the mutation Delta-32.

41.**(E)** Consider the structure of the library funding argument. First, a proposal is made (the legislature asks the public to approve a bond to fund libraries with money outside the existing budget). Second, the argument acknowledges that the decision maker (the public) supports the intended outcome of the proposed project (building and improving public libraries). Third, the argument urges rejection of the proposal anyway (since the money could come from a better source — money in the existing budget that is currently being wasted). Finally, the argument implies that the decision maker should reject this proposal because it can achieve the intended outcome by some better means.

(A) In the library funding argument, the decision maker (the public) actually wants the outcome of the proposal (libraries) but wants to achieve that outcome via a different path. Here, in contrast, parents are the decision makers, but the proposed outcome (dessert first) is desired only by the proposal maker (children). Further, the proposed solution (dessert only if dinner is finished) is not an alternate way to achieve the original proposal (dessert first).

(B) This argument is unlike the library funding argument because it focuses on the negative consequences of a proposal and its effects on a third party (neighbors without alarm systems).

(C) In this argument, a proposal is made by terrorists: they kidnap victims in order to gain publicity. The decision maker is this country. Unlike the library funding argument, here the decision maker does not agree with the proposed outcome (increasing publicity for the terrorist group).

(D) In this argument, an employer proposes a specific pay increase. The decision maker is the labor union, and here the proposal offers the union only one part of what it wanted. In the library argument, the decision maker is urged to reject a proposal with a good outcome in order to achieve that outcome by other means. Here, the decision maker is urged to reject the proposal because it is incomplete.

(E) CORRECT .This argument follows the same format as the library funding argument. First, a proposal is made (the student wants to stay up late to finish his homework). Second, the argument acknowledges that the decision maker (his parents) supports the intended outcome of the proposed project (doing well in school). Third, the argument urges rejection of the proposal anyway (since the student wastes time earlier in the evening that could be spent on school work). Finally, the argument implies that the decision makers should reject this proposal because they can achieve the intended outcome by some better means.

42.**(C)** You are asked to determine what you can infer based upon the given information; on the GRE, whatever you infer must be based only upon the argument itself and cannot extend beyond the scope of that argument.

(A) The argument says nothing about requirements in other states; this choice is out of scope.

(B) While it may be illegal for those under 21 to consume alcohol, the argument makes no mention of special rules for this age category. Indeed, the argument says that hunters have to sign the pledge, not just hunters aged 21 and over.

(C) CORRECT. The argument says that the hunter must have completed a safety program within the past five years. If he has not, then he will have to do so before he can be eligible for a permit. (Note that this choice doesn't say he will get a permit if he completes the program again; you don't know what other requirements he may not meet. You only know that he will have to retake the program, at least, before he can become eligible.)

(D) This choice mentions someone who *isn't 18 years old*. Someone who isn't 18 can be either younger than 18 or older than 18 and, according to the argument, those older than 18 are eligible for permits if they complete all of the requirements. According to the argument, those older than 18 are eligible for permits if they complete all of the requirements.

(E) While this may be true as a general rule, it is outside of the scope of the argument, which mentions nothing about danger or why these rules were enacted. In addition, any requirements cannot *ensure that nobody gets hurt*; they can only help to minimize risks.

43. **(A)**. The argument claims that wide dissemination of wireless access is now a practical way to meet urban needs, based on the evidence of its successful use in rural areas. The author then must assume that urban areas provide no additional problems for wireless use.

(A) CORRECT. This choice confirms an assumption of the argument and thus strengthens the conclusion.

(B) This choice weakens the argument because it damages the assumption that urban areas pose no extra problems for wireless use.

(C) This choice is irrelevant because it provides information about another rural area; the conclusion concerns urban areas.

(D) This choice weakens the argument because it damages the assumption that urban areas pose no extra problems for wireless use.

(E) This choice is an irrelevant distinction. The argument mentioned all three groups as in need of this service. The suggestion that one group needs it more than the others is irrelevant to the conclusion.

44. **(D)**. The conclusion of this argument is that *many weight loss efforts fail because people eat more calories than they intend to consume*. The first boldface portion is a factual premise ("Studies have shown...") that there is an observed correlation between keeping a diet record and losing weight successfully. This premise (indirectly) supports the researchers' conclusion. The second boldface portion is another supporting premise, this one citing a specific study showing that dieters who do not keep a diet record eat far more than they realize.

(A) The first boldface is not the conclusion; it is an observed fact. The second boldface is evidence that the researchers' conclusion is correct, but is not evidence that the first boldface is correct.

(B) The first boldface is a fact that supports the researchers' theory, but it does not explain why their conclusion is correct—the other premises do so.

(C) The first boldface is a fact that supports the researchers' theory, but it does not illustrate the truth of that theory—the second boldface does. The second boldface is a fact that supports the researchers' theory; it is not a competing theory.

(D) CORRECT. The first boldface (diet record = diet success) is a basis for the researchers' conclusion that many weight loss efforts fail because people consume more than they intended. The second boldface directly illustrates how weight loss efforts of a certain group failed for exactly that reason.

(E) The first boldface is a factual statement, not a theory. Furthermore, the first boldface supports the theory of the researchers; it is not something they have disproved.

45. **(B)**. This argument concludes that the city should convene a conference of relevant parties to create opportunities for out-of-work young people. The argument's premise is that the retirement of the baby boomers will create shortages. The argument assumes the efficacy of its conclusion — in other words, that the conference will actually be effective in creating job opportunities. Attacking an assumption is an effective way to weaken an argument.

(A) If anything, this choice strengthens the argument. If immigration does not provide a labor pool, it is more likely that a shortage will ensue.

(B) CORRECT. The argument assumes that it is feasible to affect employment patterns by government encouragement and/or action. If that assumption is denied, the conclusion is weakened, as the conference would be pointless.

(C) This choice makes an irrelevant distinction. It doesn't matter if the best positions require skills, as long as the majority are available to the unskilled unemployed in question.

(D) Knowing that a small proportion of baby boomers will not retire on schedule does not significantly weaken the argument. The argument relies on general estimates, not on exact numbers.

(E) If anything, this choice strengthens the argument. If these people are unaware of these opportunities, it would be positive to convene to plan how to reach them.

46. **(A)**. The argument itself provides one example of the Doppler effect: a siren decreases in perceived pitch as it approaches, passes and then moves away from an observer. The answer choice that most closely describes a similar scenario is a correct illustration of the Doppler effect.

(A) CORRECT. The passengers on the westbound train see the eastbound train approaching, passing, then traveling away from them. The sound of the horn, therefore, will decrease in pitch for the westbound passengers.

(B) The passengers on the westbound train see the eastbound train approaching, passing, then traveling away from them. The sound of the horn, therefore, will decrease in pitch for the westbound passengers. This choice, however, says that the sound will increase in pitch.

(C) Relative to the passengers on the eastbound train, the eastbound train and its horn are in fact standing still! The Doppler effect only describes a *perceived change in pitch that occurs when the source of a sound is in motion relative to the observer*, a situation that is not illustrated by this choice.

(D) Relative to the passengers on the eastbound train, the eastbound train and its horn are in fact standing still! The Doppler effect only describes a *perceived change in pitch that occurs when the source of a sound is in motion relative to the observer*, a situation that is not illustrated by this choice.

(E) Relative to the passengers on the eastbound train, the eastbound train and its horn are in fact standing still! The Doppler effect only describes a *perceived change in pitch that occurs when the source of a sound is in motion relative to the observer*, so while it is true that the eastbound passengers would hear their train's horn at its true pitch, this situation does not illustrate the Doppler effect.

47. **(E)** The author concludes that one will only be able to determine the age of a Brazilian ash by counting its rings if the temperature in the tree's environment never exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit. The author bases this conclusion on the fact that the tree loses rings when the temperature exceeds that level. However, if the number of rings lost by a Brazilian ash at high temperatures can be predicted, it may be possible to determine the age of a tree even if the temperature exceeds 95 degrees.

(A) The argument says nothing about precipitation. This answer choice is out of scope since it would require a number of other assumptions to make it relevant to the argument's conclusion.

(B) Whether other trees share this feature is irrelevant; the argument focuses only on the Brazilian ash.

(C) The number of days of excessive heat needed to cause the tree to lose rings is irrelevant.

(D) The thickness of the rings is irrelevant.

(E) CORRECT The conclusion is that the rings will be a reliable measure only if the temperature never exceeds 95 degrees. This is true only if there is no way to predict how many rings would be lost when the temperature does exceed 95 degrees. If it were possible to predict this, one might be able to assess the age of a tree using its rings even if the temperature had exceeded 95 degrees.

48. **(E)** The text tells you that celiac disease results when the body mistakes gluten for a harmful pathogen, causing damage to the intestine. You are also told that gluten is a protein found in certain grains, and that people suffering from celiac disease must eliminate it from their diets. Finally, you are told that symptoms of the disease include cramps, bloating, and anemia. You need to find an answer choice that is inferable from these facts alone.

(A) Anemia is just one of several symptoms of the disease. You do not know whether everyone who has the disease will also develop anemia.

(B) You do not know whether eliminating gluten will cure the disease, only that people with the disease must not eat gluten. Perhaps the disease will exist anyway in a latent form.

(C) You do not know whether the symptoms mentioned are also symptoms of other conditions.

(D) You do not know whether gluten is found only in grains. It may exist in other foods as well.

(E) CORRECT If the body mistakes gluten for a harmful pathogen, then it must be true that the body cannot always recognize harmless substances.

49. **(E)** This argument proposes that culture does not influence the process by which the mind distinguishes colored objects. In support of the conclusion, the argument notes that all languages with six colors name the same colors, as

well as all languages with three colors. To weaken the conclusion, you need evidence to support the counter-argument that culture *does* influence how the mind distinguishes colored objects. Notice the logical difference between distinguishing color *names* and distinguishing colored *objects*. For instance, a speaker of English can visually distinguish two objects with different shades of red, even if he or she cannot easily name the difference. Some of the wrong answers attempt to confuse these two processes.

(A) Irrelevant. It may be interesting to observe that no language has more than eleven basic color terms. However, this observation neither weakens nor strengthens the argument that culture influences how the mind perceives color variations.

(B) Irrelevant. In fact, this statement may slightly strengthen the argument: if every language permits its speakers to describe subtle color variations, then it might be argued that human color perception is independent of language, since language would then not be “boxing in” the speaker.

(C) Irrelevant. The term *red* may encompass both red and yellow, but that doesn’t mean that speakers of the language can’t see the difference between red and yellow. In the same way, the English word *blue* covers many shades that English speakers with normal vision can distinguish (sky blue, royal blue, etc.)

(D) Strengthens. If speakers of languages without a blue-green distinction refer to the sky or tree leaves to clarify their meaning, then they obviously see a difference between the sky and tree leaves. Using the sky or tree leaves as reference points is no different from using fruit names for colors (e.g., orange, peach). This evidence reinforces the idea that humans have a common basis for perceiving colors.

(E) CORRECT . If Tarahumara speakers are less able to identify differences between blue and green *objects* than Spanish speakers, then it can be argued that the lack of a blue-green distinction in the Tarahumara language influences how Tarahumara speakers actually perceive colors. It should be noted that this evidence does not completely prove the point — the causality could actually work the other way (e.g., Tarahumaras could share a genetic defect that causes blue-green color blindness, and so they never developed a distinction in their language). Also, if the experiment is not well designed, the difficulty in identification could simply come from the lack of a handy term to capture the difference of blue and green. However, the evidence as given does support the hypothesis that culture influences color perception.

50. **(A)** . This question is an Analyze the Argument Structure question; the best approach is to identify the conclusion, and then determine how each boldface portion of the argument relates to the conclusion. The conclusion of this argument appears in the third sentence: *doctors determined that Anopheles mosquitoes were responsible for transmitting the disease to humans*. The first boldface statement tells you that malaria was named based upon the original, but incorrect, view that the disease was caused by “bad air”; the statement does not support the conclusion. The second boldface statement provides the specific mechanism by which the mosquito is responsible for human infection; it therefore supports the conclusion. More simply, the first statement does not support the conclusion, while the second statement does.

(A) CORRECT . The first statement does follow from the original, but incorrect, view that the disease was caused by “bad air.” It weakens the conclusion by supporting an incorrect conclusion. The second statement is a supporting premise which explicates (or explains) why the conclusion is true.

(B) A conjecture is a hypothesis or a supposition, but the first statement is not a conjecture; it is a fact. The second statement contradicts the original conclusion, but it does not contradict the fact provided in the first statement.

(C) To illuminate a thing is to clarify or explain it. The first statement does not explain any assumption (or the original conclusion, for that matter); it merely states a fact that follows from the original, erroneous conclusion. The second statement does not confirm anything in the first half of the argument; rather, it supports the later, correct conclusion.

(D) The first statement did not cause the erroneous conclusion; rather, it is a result of that conclusion. The second statement is a premise that supports the correct conclusion.

(E) The first statement does provide additional detail about the original, erroneous conclusion. The second statement is not the actual conclusion (or judgment); it is a premise in support of the later conclusion.

51. **(A)**. In this argument, a cause-and-effect relationship is presented between American scientists signing long-term contracts with foreign companies and the government's restrictions on stem cell research. This cause-and-effect relationship is the key to the correct answer.

(A) CORRECT. If American scientists signed the contracts because of U.S. restrictions, you can infer that the new companies they signed with were under fewer restrictions. Therefore, at least *some* foreign companies *must* work under fewer restrictions than *some* American companies do.

(B) While it is possible that once the restrictions are banned, American companies will want to hire more scientists and will seek them overseas, there are too many unknowns between the premises you have been given and this conclusion. It is doubtful that an increase in the number of immigrating stem cell research scientists would have a *significant* impact on the number of *foreign professionals* overall.

(C) This passage is about government restrictions; you are given no information about *financial backing*. Beware of extreme statements such as *in all parts of in all parts of the world*.

(D) You are not given any information regarding America's current or future position in terms of stem cell research. Though restrictions and scientists switching companies are two issues related to a company's prosperity, you are given no information about how these directly affect America's position.

(E) You are not given any information that will help you predict the behavior of the scientists in the future.

52. **(D)**. In the argument, the critics make the error of mistaking correlation with causation. While it is true that most employees were reassigned to the mission to Mars, it is not established that the mission to Europa was scrapped in order to move the employees to a different project, or if there was some other motivation that caused the demise of the Europa project. The conclusion that NASA presents is that the critics, in saying that public interest is the key motivator behind NASA's actions, are misinformed.

(A) Irrelevant. The conclusion is based on the critics' opinions on causation, and this answer fails to address the issue of what motivated NASA in its decision-making process. Beware of reading too deeply into the information presented. The fact that the percentage of spending is going to go down could indicate many possible scenarios, including a) NASA is unhappy with the progress of the project and plans to cut future spending or b) they expect the development of the shuttle to be completed by 2013.

(B) Weakens. If public interest determines its budget, NASA has strong motivation to keep public interest high. Additionally, this is a highly unlikely answer because it concerns "budget," and "budget" is not mentioned in the original argument.

(C) Irrelevant. This statement differentiates between the opinions of some scientists and the opinions of others, but sheds no light on the motivations behind NASA's decisions. Not only is the answer choice only indirectly related to your statement, it also adds very little new information.

(D) CORRECT. This answer choice provides an alternate reason why NASA scrapped its plan for sending an unmanned vessel to Europa — the Tokyo telescope provides the information NASA would have attained from the mission, making the mission unnecessary.

(E) Irrelevant. The conclusion deals with NASA's motivations; this statement is about the motivations of American citizens. There is no direct relationship between what Americans see as the future of space exploration and the motivations behind NASA's decision-making.

53. **(B)**. The argument claims that no one with a compromised immune system should travel to Nicaragua's "Mosquito Coast," due to the risk of contracting dengue fever or malaria. The correct answer choice is the choice that *least* strengthens the argument. Therefore, the wrong answers must each clearly strengthen the argument in one of several ways: 1) increasing the *probability* of infection, the primary negative outcome; 2) increasing the *harmful effects* of infection; or 3) increasing the harmful effects of *alternative outcomes* — for instance, demonstrating the negative side effects of prevention methods.

(A) Strengthens. Since the method of preventing or treating one of the diseases can have bad side effects, the danger is made worse — particularly for people with compromised immune systems.

(B) CORRECT. If the government were to succeed in this effort, there would be somewhat less risk to travelers with compromised immune systems. This would weaken the conclusion that such travelers should avoid the Mosquito Coast. If the effort were to fail, it would produce no change in the danger to such travelers. Either way, this answer choice does nothing to strengthen the argument that such travelers should avoid the Mosquito Coast.

(C) Strengthens. Since a compromised immune system doesn't effectively fight either dengue fever or malaria, people with such immune systems are at increased risk of infection by such diseases.

(D) Strengthens. The populations of both mosquitoes grow during rainy season; thus, the chance of contracting either disease also grows.

(E) Strengthens. The insect repellent may be the most effective available, but it can also have a terrible side effect. Using this repellent is one of the options for dealing with the risk of mosquito-borne disease. Since this option is more dangerous than before, the travel advisory is strengthened.

54. **(D)**. According to the text, the Peruvian government claims that Inca Trail treasures would have deteriorated without a new permit program that has restricted the number of tourists. Supporting statements would likely emphasize one of the following two ideas. First, A high number of tourists *causes* the deterioration of Inca Trail archaeological sites, and so a reduced number reduces the deterioration. (Note that this causal connection, while reasonable, cannot be assumed. Evidence that would support this connection might include *a comparison with similar ruins* that did not benefit from a permit program and that have experienced greater deterioration, or *a comparison between two periods of time* (before and after 2001) for Inca Trail ruins.) Second, other results of the permit program (e.g., new revenue) *help prevent* archaeological damage along the Inca Trail.

(A) Irrelevant.The increase in pay m ay have resulted from the perm it program ,and it m ay be reasonable to assum e that this increase in pay has led to greater satisfaction in the job and hence,perhaps,to greater care for historical artifacts. H ow ever,this chain of reasoning is too speculative to strengthen the argum ent appreciably.

(B) Irrelevant.Local villages m ay have seen a drop in incom e as a result of the restrictions on tourist num bers,but this does not strengthen or w eaken the claim that the perm it program prevented Inca Trail ruins from deteriorating.

(C) Irrelevant.The funds are a positive result of the perm it program ,but if these funds are used to protect or preserve archaeology elsew here,then they do not im pact the preservation of ruins specifically on the Inca Trail.

(D) C O R R E C T .The m ore rapid deterioration of sim ilar ruins elsew here supports the claim that that the perm it program has helped prevent deterioration of Inca Trail ruins.N otice that this evidence does not rise to the level of absolute proof;other differences betw een the ruins m ight explain the different rates of deterioration.H ow ever,this evidence clearly supports the hypothesis that the perm it program w as successful.

(E) Irrelevant.W ithout the perm it program ,it is possible (though far from certain) that the num ber of tourists hiking the Inca Trail w ould have risen together w ith the total num ber of tourists in Peru.H ow ever,an increase in the num ber of tourists on the Inca Trail w ould not necessarily have led to greater deterioration of archaeological treasures on the trail.

55.**(E)**.The chairm an claim s that sam e-day spending at dow ntow n businesses by people attending perform ances at the Farm sley C enter has contributed to the econom ic revitalization of dow ntow n M etropolis.H is argum ent depends on it being true that this spending represents an increased flow of m oney into the econom y of dow ntow n M etropolis.If,for exam ple,the \$83 per visitor that he cites is m oney that w ould have been spent in dow ntow n businesses *even if the Farm sley C enter had not been built*,the chairm an's argum ent w ould be unsound.Therefore,you should look for an answ er choice that suggests that the \$83 per visitor is indeed m oney that probably w ould not have been spent in dow ntow n M etropolis in the absence of the Farm sley C enter.

(A) Irrelevant.Y ou do not know w hat contributions to the city the business group has in m ind.Perhaps the chairm an is being honored for activities unrelated to the Farm sley C enter,or perhaps he is being honored sim ply because M etropolis residents feel civic pride at having a grand perform ance space dow ntow n.Y ou need m ore inform ation before you can say that this prize constitutes evidence that the Farm sley C enter has helped to revitalize the dow ntow n econom y.

(B) Irrelevant.Expensive restaurants m ay be a *sign* of the econom ic revitalization of dow ntow n M etropolis,but they do not tell you w hat causal factors led to that revitalization.

(C) Irrelevant.In the absence of inform ation specifically relating the architecture of the Farm sley C enter to spending at dow ntow n businesses,you cannot say that the architect's international standing has helped in the econom ic revitalization dow ntow n.

(D) Irrelevant.The Farm sley C enter m ay be hosting perform ances that w ould otherw ise have taken place at other dow ntow n venues,but this does not m ean that extra m oney is being spent dow ntow n.

(E) C O R R E C T .If suburbanites are com ing to M etropolis to see perform ances at the Farm sley C enter,they are bringing m oney from out of tow n and spending it in dow ntow n M etropolis.This inflow of m oney supports the idea that the Farm sley C enter has contributed to the econom ic revitalization of dow ntow n M etropolis.N otice,by the w ay, that this inform ation about suburbanites by no m eans constitutes an iron-clad *proof* of the chairm an's contention.(It is

conceivable, for instance, that in the absence of the Farm sley C enter the suburbanites w ould have found other reasons to visit M etropolis.) Since this is a Strengthen the C onclusion question, how ever, you do not need to find an answ er choice that proves the conclusion — just one that m akes the conclusion m ore likely.

56.(D).The argum ent presents tw o retirem ent account options.In the first,taxes are paid w hen m oney is w ithdraw n upon retirem ent;in the second,taxes are paid w hen the m oney is initially deposited into the account.The author assum es that it is better to pay taxes on the contributions than on the w ithdraw als w hen the total contribution am ount is sm aller than the total available for w ithdraw al.B ut the am ount paid in taxes,w hether on contributions to the fund or on w ithdraw als from the fund,depends on both the *am ount* of m oney contributed or w ithdraw n and on the *tax rates* applied to those contributions or w ithdraw als.Thus,to evaluate the argum ent,it w ould be helpful for you to know the am ounts of m oney involved as w ell as the relevant tax rates.

(A) It w ould be useful to know *both* how m uch is contributed *and* the value of the account upon retirem ent.K now ing just the first figure,how ever,doesn't allow the w orker to figure out w hich retirem ent account option w ould perm it him to pay less in taxes.

(B) It m ight be useful if you knew *w hen and how* the tax rates w ould increase,but “in the future” is too vague.The tax rates m ay increase w hile the w orker is still em ployed,or they m ay not increase until the w orker has retired.W ithout know ing,you cannot evaluate the conclusion any further.

(C) This m ay tell you how w isely the w orker invested the funds,but it does not provide any inform ation about the tax consequences,w hich are the focus of the conclusion.

(D) C O R R E C T .If a w orker know s the relative tax brackets to expect during the different stages,he or she can better predict w hether it w ould be less expensive to pay taxes on the contributions or on the w ithdraw als.

(E) It w ould be useful to know *both* how m uch is contributed *and* the value of the account upon retirem ent.K now ing just the second figure,how ever,doesn't allow the w orker to figure out w hich retirem ent account option w ould perm it him to pay less in taxes.

57.(C).The argum ent presents a discrepancy betw een the percentage of survey respondents w ho reported that they did vote in an election (71%) and the percentage of eligible voters w ho did vote in that election (60%).A n explanation of the discrepancy w ill often hinge upon explaining w hy the apparent conflict does not apply,distinguishing the situation from others,or providing an additional prem ise that resolves the discrepancy.

(A) If the m argin of error is $\pm 5\%$,this is the sam e as saying that the 71% figure could be as low as 66% (or as high as 76%).This accounts for less than half of the discrepancy betw een 71% and 60% .

(B) This choice does not address the stated discrepancy betw een those w ho said they voted and those w ho actually did vote.Y ou have not been told that voters are required to m aintain a prim ary residence in the hom e country at the tim e of the election,nor have you been told that voters m ust be physically present in the hom e country in order to cast a vote.

(C) C O R R E C T .O ne explanation for the discrepancy betw een these tw o results is the possibility that people w ho do vote w ill respond to surveys at a higher rate than people w ho do not vote — in other w ords,people w ho do vote are overrepresented in the survey's results.This is an additional prem ise that w ould explain the higher percentage of individuals polled indicating that they voted.

(D) While this may be true, the poll did not ask people if they *intended* to vote; rather, it asked people if they had already voted in a past election.

(E) While this may account for some percentage of the discrepancy, you are not given any numerical data to indicate that the entire discrepancy can be explained; “some” could mean only 2 people. In addition, the confused people wouldn’t necessarily have responded that they did vote (when thinking about a different election) even though they didn’t vote in the national election. They could just as easily have reported that they did not vote (when thinking about a different election) even though they did vote in the national election.

58. **(B)** . You are presented with a paragraph of premises and asked to resolve the problem they present: how to minimize the spread of flu via air travel. The correct answer will need to rely specifically on the premises and will not require you to make any inferences or assumptions.

(A) The passage states that the infection can be spread by coughing. The flu virus, therefore, can reach the other passengers in the “closely-packed environment” before it enters any filters that might kill the virus.

(B) CORRECT . Vaccines provide significant protection against developing the virus (not 100% protection, but you are asked to “minimize” the impact of air travel, not eliminate it entirely). If all passengers are vaccinated against the virus, many of those who otherwise would have developed the disease will not, and, therefore, won’t spread it to others.

(C) Anyone can contract the virus and subsequently spread it; the mentioned populations are merely “especially vulnerable” to it. Infected people traveling to another place can infect children, senior citizens, and others who have stayed in their home regions.

(D) The passage states that the infection can be spread by coughing; while it may be true that the virus can also spread via hand contact, this information is not stated in the passage.

(E) The passage states that people who develop symptoms before travel begins likely would not make the trip; weeding out those with observable symptoms, then, won’t “minimize” the role of air travel because there aren’t that many people in this category. The larger danger is those who may be infected but have not yet developed symptoms.

59. **(B)** . The journalist cites data about the success of tall people, then concludes that employers have an unconscious bias in favor of tall people. The journalist is assuming that employer bias is the only explanation for the data; look for an answer choice that throws this explanation into question.

(A) Irrelevant. Gender comparisons are irrelevant in interpreting the journalist’s data on CEOs, since those data are only about *male* CEOs. Likewise, gender comparisons are irrelevant in interpreting the journalist’s data about the general population, since the passage says those data have been corrected for the influence of gender and age.

(B) CORRECT . If socioeconomic status is correlated to both height and educational attainment, you would expect taller people to be, on average, better educated. The economic success of tall people could then be attributed to their higher levels of educational attainment rather than to employer bias.

(C) Irrelevant or Weakens. Professional basketball players, with their above-average height and above-average pay, do account for a small part of the correlation between height and pay. And insofar as being tall is useful in the game of basketball, the high wages of tall players can be explained without reference to any unconscious bias on the part of

their employers. Thus, the case of professional basketball players may weaken the journalist's argument slightly. However, basketball pros constitute a tiny fraction of the labor force, so their high pay accounts for an extremely small portion of the \$789-per-inch wage advantage conferred by height. Also, basketball players tend to be very tall, so their high wages cannot explain wage differentials among short people — why, for instance, people who are 4'11" tend to earn more than do people who are 4'10". Finally, the high wages of basketball players do nothing to undermine the journalist's interpretation of the data on male CEOs, because basketball players are not CEOs.

(D) Irrelevant. An HR professional might unconsciously favor tall people (or good-looking people, or charismatic people, etc.) without herself being tall (or good-looking, or charismatic, etc.).

(E) Irrelevant. Unless you are told why a tall person tends to stay in a particular job less long than does a short person, you cannot say whether this information bolsters or undermines the journalist's argument.

60. **(D)**. The argument is concerned with how public school teachers are compensated. It suggests that educational experts believe that a system of teacher compensation based on performance rather than seniority would help to retain exceptional teachers and maintain quality instruction. The correct answer is the one that most undermines this contention of the educational experts.

(A) Irrelevant. The fact that many factors contribute to job satisfaction and teaching performance neither weakens nor strengthens the argument for a performance-based pay structure for public school teachers.

(B) Irrelevant. Nothing in the argument indicates that one universal system of compensation must be adopted. It is very possible that several effective models of performance-based pay could be developed and implemented successfully.

(C) Strengthens. This choice indicates that many young teachers are extremely frustrated by the traditional pay structure, in which financial advancement is directly tied to seniority. Thus, these teachers would likely welcome a change that allows them more rapid opportunity for financial advancement.

(D) CORRECT. Weakens. This choice indicates that collaboration among teachers is integral to high-quality instruction and that a system of compensation based on teacher performance reduces collaboration. Thus, the effect of a merit-based system of pay would be to undermine quality instruction, which is one of the two stated goals of the educational experts.

(E) Strengthens. The educational experts' argument in favor of performance-based compensation is bolstered if standardized tests scores have dramatically risen in school districts that have instituted such pay structures.

61. **(B)**. In order to properly evaluate the role of the two boldfaced portions, you must first identify the conclusion: *networks can actually increase their revenue through higher advertising rates, due to larger audiences lured to television through other media*. The first boldface portion opposes this position by predicting smaller audiences; the second lends support to it by citing evidence that alternate media devices lead their users to watch more television. The correct answer choice will reflect this pattern.

(A) The first boldface does weigh against the argument, but it is a prediction, rather than "an inevitable trend"; the second boldface supports the argument, but is not the conclusion itself.

(B) CORRECT. The argument about potential increased network revenue is contrary to the first boldface's prediction about shrinking audiences and falling revenue; the argument indeed depends upon the second boldface's assertion that

users of alternate devices will actually watch more hours of television.

(C) The first boldface opposes the argument, rather than clarifies it; the second would suggest that the argument is sound, rather than flawed.

(D) The technology executives do not accept the prediction of the network executives; the second boldface contradicts, rather than follows as a consequence of, that prediction.

(E) The first boldface does not use an analogy; the second is in agreement with, not opposition to, the argument.

62. **(A)**. This question asks you to find the answer choice that “most seriously jeopardizes the findings of the study,” or, in other words, the answer choice that weakens the conclusion. The correct answer choice will cast doubt on the sponsors’ claim that *reducing nicotine intake does not improve one’s health*. One way in which this claim can be weakened is to demonstrate flaws in the study on which the claim is based.

(A) CORRECT. This answer choice indicates that most study participants did not actually reduce their nicotine intake; instead, they simply received nicotine from different sources. Since the data on which the conclusion is based is not reliable, the conclusion is undermined.

(B) Although this choice does indicate that a number of study participants might have consumed nicotine from secondhand smoke, it does not undermine the idea that these individuals, by cutting back their smoking, have significantly reduced their nicotine intake. Before the study, the nicotine intake of these participants was smoking plus secondhand smoke; now, the only nicotine intake is periodic secondhand smoke.

(C) This choice neither strengthens nor weakens the conclusion. The study related solely to the reduction of nicotine intake through smoking and never mentioned these other factors. The fact that the study used a diverse sample of smokers does not, in itself, undermine the validity of the conclusions.

(D) This answer choice is irrelevant. The study concerns the effects of reducing nicotine intake through smoking, not quitting smoking entirely.

(E) This choice is irrelevant. While it further details the methodology used in selecting subjects, it does not strengthen or weaken the conclusion.

63. **(B)**. The passage concludes that increased leisure time in the developed world causes an increase in the percentage of people diagnosed with clinical depression. For this causal conclusion to be valid, you must eliminate alternate causes for this disparity. Note that some questions of this type focus on eliminating *reverse* causality. That is, if the conclusion is that X causes Y (because X and Y are observed together), then one assumption is that Y *does not* cause X. Other questions focus on eliminating an *outside* cause. That is, if the conclusion is X causes Y (because X and Y are observed together), then another assumption is that Z (some outside force) *does not* cause Y. As it turns out, this question is of the latter type: eliminating an *outside* cause.

(A) This statement weakens the hypothesis. If clinical depression were genetically transmitted, then the amount of leisure time would have no effect on the percentage of the population diagnosed with clinical depression.

(B) CORRECT. If individuals in the developing and developed worlds do not have equal access to accurate diagnostic procedures, it is possible that either frequent misdiagnoses or a lack of correct diagnoses causes the seeming

disparity between the populations. Thus, for the argument to be valid, this assumption must hold true. Put another way, this assumption eliminates the possible *outside* cause (the difference in diagnostic techniques between the developing and the developed worlds).

(C) Nothing indicates that *most* leisure activities must be inherently boring. As long as more individuals in the developed world than in the developing world are experiencing boredom, the logic of the passage remains valid.

(D) This choice weakens the researchers' hypothesis. If fewer effective medications were available in the developing world, the incidence of clinical depression there should be *higher* than in developed countries.

(E) It is unimportant to determine whether few residents of developing countries dedicate any of their time to leisure. The argument already states that residents of developed countries have *increased* leisure time relative to residents of developing countries, so this assumption is unnecessary.

64. **(C)** The argument concludes that the principal's plan to restrict playtime outdoors as a punishment for misbehavior is counterproductive in that outdoor playtime discourages misbehavior. However, this argument assumes that the correlation between outdoor playtime and good behavior is the result of a particular cause-and-effect relationship — that is, outdoor play causes good behavior. It is possible that good behavior spurs outdoor play rather than vice versa; it is also possible that some other factor causes both good behavior and outdoor play. The correct answer will eliminate one or both of these possibilities.

(A) It is not assumed by the argument that the cited studies were conducted by academic researchers adhering to established standards of scientific research, as studies performed by other parties (i.e., consultants hired by a non-profit organization) could be equally well-constructed and valid.

(B) It is not assumed by the argument that students who have been punished will be less likely to misbehave again in the future. It is possible that the punishment is meant primarily as a deterrent. Also, the argument centers on the plan being counterproductive to the goal of reducing misbehavior; this assumption would make the principal's plan more effective.

(C) CORRECT If students who are well-behaved are more likely to play outdoors as a result of being well-behaved, then the cause-and-effect relationship runs counter to the way it is presented in the argument. If being well-behaved causes children to play outside more, then the principal's plan would not be counterproductive. The punishment (no outdoor play) would not necessarily cause more bad behavior. It should be noted that one could still question the efficacy of the principal's plan on other grounds, but this assumption is essential to the argument that the plan is clearly counter to the principal's goals.

(D) This answer choice is not assumed by the argument. First, there is no indication that the principal will necessarily accede to the wishes of the local parents. Second, the argument concludes that the principal's plan runs counter to the principal's goals, not that implementing the plan will be unfeasible.

(E) This answer choice is incorrect in that physical development is beyond the scope of the argument. The argument focuses on behavior, not physical development.

65. **(C)** Two points of view are expressed in the argument: consumer groups claim that à la carte pricing will reduce consumer costs, while the cable television industry claims that the current package pricing structure is most cost effective for consumers. If the goal of the government is to reduce the cost of cable television for consumers, it is critical for the government to determine whether adding the option of à la carte pricing is likely to save consumers

money.

(A) According to the argument, the government's decision is to be based only on the costs to consumers, not the number of channels available to them. If there were some pricing consequences as a result of this loss of diversity, the point might be relevant, but you are given no such information.

(B) According to the argument, the government's decision is based only on the costs to consumers, not the advertising profits of the cable television companies.

(C) CORRECT. If consumers would not choose to order all of the channels they currently buy as part of a package subscription, then the television industries' claim that à la carte pricing would always be more expensive is suspect. If many consumers only watch and wish to pay for a few of their favorite channels, à la carte pricing could very well result in lower cable bills for those consumers.

(D) According to the argument, the government's decision is to be based on the costs to consumers, not the number of consumers who subscribe. If there were some pricing consequences as a result of a loss of subscribers, the point might be relevant, but you are given no such information.

(E) According to the argument, the government's decision is to be based only on the costs to consumers, not the technical equipment requirements a change in cost structure would require.

66. **(A).** The argument provides information about the substantial costs associated with the development of Dendadrine. Yet the management views Dendadrine as a highly profitable project. In order to reconcile these claims, you need to demonstrate that the drug will be able to generate profits that will more than compensate for the high initial expenditures associated with its development.

(A) CORRECT. If management expects to earn patent protection for the new drug, then the company can also expect to charge the unusually high prices that will more than compensate for the initial research and development costs.

Note that the patent protection is likely to result in prices twice as high as those necessary for the company to recoup its costs, thus leading to substantial profits.

(B) This answer tells you that for some pharmaceutical products, high R & D expenditures are quite typical. While this explains the high costs associated with the development of Dendadrine, it tells you nothing about how well such products do on the market and whether they subsequently become profitable.

(C) Though this supports the idea that Dendadrine will sell well, it does not specifically support the contention that the drug will be profitable in the face of the unusually high costs associated with it.

(D) Though this supports the idea that Dendadrine will be the primary, if not only, treatment for this market segment, it does not specifically support the contention that the drug will be profitable in the face of the unusually high costs associated with it.

(E) Though this supports the idea that the market for Dendadrine is very large and will generate revenues in excess of \$5 billion within a few years, it does not specifically support the contention that the drug will be profitable in the face of the unusually high costs associated with it.